# Disability/NOM/ £1.80 August 2001 Established 1984

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# IB reform plans: fear and confusion

The government must come clean over its proposed reform of Incapacity

Benefit (IB), furious disability campaigners have said.

Campaigners fear that more disabled people could face personal capability assessments (PCAs), i.e. medicals, and have their benefits taken away.

A government report just released shows that more than a third of those losing IB and being put on Jobseekers Allowance become inactive due to sickness or disability within ten months.

Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Pensions and Work, stated in July that IB awards would be limited to three years.

He later backtracked and said that new applicants would not go for more than three years without a review and, where appropriate, a work focused interview and/or PCA.

This will begin in the 50 Jobcentre Plus pilot areas in October and go national later.

The government claims that

one million disabled people want work, and insists that their plans are intended to help people find work, not force them off IB.

But campaigners said the majority of claimants are already reassessed at 18 months. The changes may affect those getting awards for longer than three years while severely disabled people exempt from the PCA will face the review.

Mike Hurdiss, benefits policy officer at Scope, said: "The government's message is still mixed. We'd be concerned if the government still has more frequent re-testing in mind because it does nothing to improve security for disabled people and could lead to people being denied benefit incorrectly."

Lorna Reith, chief executive of the Disability Alliance, said:

"The government has frightened people and we don't know what to say when they question us."

She said IB already leads to poverty and added: "Those forced off the benefit only become further impoverished and then return to it later."

Government research also reveals that its support systems to get IB claimants into work are flawed. There was evidence of cherry picking the most work-ready people in the new deal for disabled people pilots, as well as a danger of performance targets over-influencing the advice given to IB claimants to encourage them to find work.

Margaret Lavery, policy officer at disability charity RADAR, said: "There is a danger that the options that improve people's lives will be overlooked if the emphasis is on targets."



Hard Labour: Disabled people protested outside 10 Downing Street at the government's latest plans to change rules for Incapacity Benefit.

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### Charge scheme slammed

Disability campaigners have slammed London Mayor Ken Livingstone's new congestion charge scheme for discriminating against disabled people living outside the capital.

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) said if the proposals were introduced as they stand, it would consider taking action for discrimination.

Under the current draft scheme, blue/orange badge holders living in greater London would be cleared of paying the £5 charge. Badge holders living outside the capital would not be exempt.

However, car drivers who are exempt from vehicle excise duty will not have to pay the congestion charge.

Bert Massie, chairman of the DRC, said: "We can't have equality if some are more equal than others. Exemption should apply to all badge holders."

The Disabled Drivers' Motor Club (DDMC) and the Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA) are furious at the inconsistency.

"It is clearly unfair to penalise the most severely disabled people, for whom public transport is not an option," said Douglas Campbell, executive director of the DDA. "The whole thing is farcical and discriminatory. It defies belief."

Ed Passant, chief executive of the DDMC, added: "Our members tell us their personal mobility is already severely restricted by cost pressures. More charges mean more hardship."

Mr Campbell said that neither the DDA nor the DDMC were consulted on the proposals before they were published.

Transport for London will consult on the plans until 1 October. To take part, tel: 0800 085 3939 or visit

### Doctor will be probed

All of a doctor's cases for the last ten years will be probed following concerns about his treatment of children with epilepsy.

Dr Andrew Holton was suspended as consultant pediatrician at Leicester Royal Infirmary in June amid fears over his diagnoses and prescriptions.

An independent inquiry ruled that the notes of the 8,500 children he has treated since 1991 should be investigated. Concerned parents can ring the helpline, tel: 0116 258 7511 or tel: 0116 254 1414.

#### Join DN's campaigns

Questionnaires calling for winter fuel payments and an end to parking abuse can be found on the DN website www.disabilitynow.org.uk

# Nursing care plans criticised

The government has come in for criticism over new draft guidance on providing nursing

The plans aim to extend free nursing care to 35,000 people living in nursing homes who currently pay up to £400 a week.

But Age Concern and the Royal College of Nursing are angry that care delegated to assistants by nurses could still be means tested. This may include changing dressings for ulcers.

And Age Concern is worried about government proposals to pay for care through a cost banding system set at £35, £70 and £110 a week for different levels of nursing care.

Gordon Lishman, director general at Age Concern, said: "If the budget set for nursing care is inadequate there may be pressure on nurses to push people into a lower band."

Vicky Pearlman, policy and public affairs officer at Carers National Association was angry that the deadline for responses to the consultation was just four weeks.

She said: "It will prevent many voluntary organisations from responding in the detail they would like on this enormously important guidance." The deadline is 13 August. www.doh.gov.uk/jointunit/ freenursingcare

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#### Silence about Lourdes death

The mother of a learning disabled boy is devastated that a charity which took him to the French pilgrimage site of Lourdes has not explained to her how he was killed by a

Christopher Brown, 12, of Basildon, died in April after being hit by a coach while under the care of HCPT - The Pilgrimage Trust.

His mother Sue Brown, said: "All I want to know is what happened and who is responsible."

French authorities are still investigating the incident.

The charity refused to comment to DN.

BETH MOULAM, AND ATHLETE CAROLINE INNES AT A SCOPE CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES. © STEFANO CAGNONI, SEE PAGE FIVE

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1/7/99 - 30/6/00



#### **Hearty verse**



Poet Laureate Andrew Motion was among the judges choosing the disabled people who

will have their poems displayed alongside works of art in an international exhibition.

The poems will be used in the Exhibition of the Heart, sponsored by the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation NHK. It is backed by DN and National Disability Arts Forum.

Professor Motion talked of "this excellent initiative," and how the 20 poems selected "combine moving stories with a properly literary expertise."

The other judges were Al Alvarez, David Hart, Lois Keith and Ian Duhig. An exhibition will be held in London in 2002.

The poets are: Natasha Grant, Feltham; Averil Rees, Aberystwyth; Michael Clements, London; Ted Slade, New Dawn Malden; McGie, Birmingham; John Hirst, Solihull; Mark Porter, Dudley; Mrs J Halmshaw, Huddersfield; Robert T Collins, Hereford; Nadia Gadalla, Boston; Valerie Laws, Whitley Bay; Helen Featherstone, Manchester; Fatma Durmush, London; Katy Andrews, North Ferriby; Jonathan Adams, Gosport; Maria Jastrzebska, Hove; Sam Malone, Bourne; The Rushland Poets, Bristol; Josie Slater, Newport; Anna Sullivan, London.

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# Education act delay anger

Education experts criticised the Government for delaying a new law giving rights to disabled children after an eleventh hour U-turn on the Code of Practice which accompanies it.

Ministers decided to review the code, after finally listening to campaigners' concerns that the new version did not require local authorities to specify the amount of support a child needed in statements of special educational needs.

But that decision will delay the Special Education Needs and Disability Act, due to start in September, for four months because it cannot be implemented without the code.

John Wright, chief executive of the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice, slammed the Government. "There was across the board opposition when the draft was published in July 2000. Everyone said then it was extremely dangerous and they ignored that," he said.

"They could have done this sooner. If anyone is to blame for the delay, it's the Government."

But he added that he welcomed the decision to review the code, however late.

Margaret McGowan, an adviser at the Advisory Centre for Education, said the delay was necessary because it would be much harder to change the code once it was introduced.

Richard Rieser, chair of the Alliance for Inclusive Education, said parents and children would suffer because of the delay.



Let's off road: Vincent Ross, wheelchair user and technical director of *pdq mobility ltd*., won the *Tomorrow's World* Inventive Design Award for the PowerTrike – a detachable wheelchair accessory.

#### In brief

#### Web may go to court

Ninety-four per cent of companies in the FTSE 100 index have inaccessible websites, a study by internet developer Aspect Internet has found.

Meanwhile, the Royal National Institute for the Blind is looking for an inaccessible website to take to court under the Disability Discrimination Act. It wants to establish some case law under the Act.

# Outrage at the polls

Up to 38 percent of polling stations may have broken the law by failing to meet new access standards for visually impaired people in the general elections, a report, *Polls Apart* 3, has found.

The survey by Scope found only 62 per cent of stations had a large print version of the ballot paper on display.

Yet the Representation of the People Act, 2000 states that

these should be provided.

Shiela Blair, acting chair of the British Council of Disabled People, said: "I am outraged. They are denying disabled people their democratic rights."

The report also found that only 51 per cent of polling stations had level access.

It highlighted the case of an 18 year old who was forced to vote outside in the rain.

However, it found that things

had improved since Scope's survey in 1997 showed 94 percent of polling stations had at least one access problem.

Ruth Scott, co-author of the report, said: "In some cases the evidence points to a lot of good will but little effective action."

Scope is calling on the Government to extend the Disability Discrimination Act to cover polling stations.

\* Free, tel: 020 7619 7341

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# Liverpool victory

A disabled woman won an outof-court settlement against care charging, prompting her council to agree to review its policy.

Susan Ferguson, a wheelchair user, took Liverpool City Council to the High Court for a judicial review, but the council backed down a day before it was due to be heard.

In an out-of-court settlement, it agreed to waive all charges owed by Mrs Ferguson for the period from 1 September 1996, when the dispute began.

It also said it would review its charging policy, taking into account Government guidance and consulting service users. Mrs Ferguson brought the case because she was angry that the council had tried to take her husband Peter's earnings into account when it decided her home help charges.

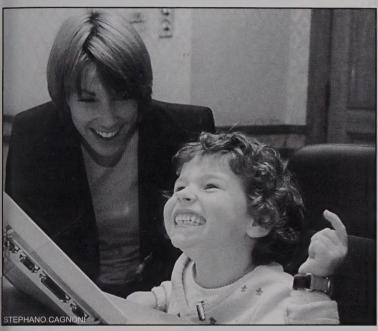
She had brought a number of failed appeals to the coucil. In a last-ditch attempt to get the council to use only her income from benefits when calculating her charges, Mrs Ferguson took them to court.

She said: "I'm delighted, I hope it helps other people. I always saw the policy as unfair."

But she was disappointed the case had not gone to court to potentially change the law.



Saying no: Susan Ferguson, centre, joins a demonstration against care charges outside the High Court.



My hero: Beth Moulam, seven, who has cerebral palsy, met paralympic medalist Caroline Innes at a conference on children's services.

#### Cp kids need more help

Cerebral palsy has tripled among very small and premature babies over the last 30 years a new report has found.

Researchers from the Queen's University Belfast found that while the number of cp births remains one in every 400, the number of children surviving at a very young age has increased. The condition has decreased among babies born after a full-term pregnancy.

The Scope report, *Focusing* on *Cerebral Palsy*,\* found that one in four children with cp has a learning disability while one in ten is blind.

The report was launched at a Scope conference which heard that there is still too little joint working between education, health and social services.

James Strachan, chief executive of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, said: "Far too many parents spend their days trying to penetrate the mazes that seemingly endless divisions of professional people can create."

Speakers from the Department of Health, (DoH) highlighted £60m which is being provided to help fund key workers and integrate services. Equipment services are to be integrated between health and social services as well.

\*£12.50 for organisations or £3 for individuals plus p&p, tel: 020 7619 7341.

# Canada pioneers legalising cannabis



Canada will become the first country to legalise cannabis for medicinal use at the end of July.

People with certificates from their doctor will be allowed to cultivate and possess the drug for personal use.

Meanwhile, Portugal passed a law in July allowing people to possess small amounts of any drug for personal use without risk of prosecution.

The moves came as a poll showed 65 per cent of British people thought cannabis should be the lowest priority for police. The survey, by ICM and *The Guardian* newspaper, found 37 per cent thought personal use of cannabis should be legalised.

And MP Jon Owen Jones is making the first attempt to get cannabis legalised for recreational use.

He will present a Private Member's Bill, which will result in the issue being debated in the Commons for the first time. Politicians have already discussed the issue outside Parliament.

In his booklet, Common Sense on Cannabis,\* former Conservative deputy leader Peter Lilley said the law on cannabis was "unenforceable and indefensible" while alcohol and tobacco were legal, and called for it to be legalised.

Home secretary David Blunkett called for "an adult debate" about reforming existing cannabis laws

\* £5 Tel: 020 7222 7060

### A call to Tory leader

The next Conservative leader must make disabled people a priority, senior Tory and former Scope chief executive, Tim Yeo, has said.

The two candidates are Ken Clarke and Iain Duncan Smith.

Neil Betteridge, head of public policy and campaigning at Arthritis Care, said both have shown a commitment to disability rights in the past.

Pro-European Clarke would be "a potential ally" because European legislation was "disability-friendly", he said.

He added that Duncan Smith opposed the Welfare Reform Act which reduced the rate of Incapacity Benefit for claimants with a pension this year.

The result of the leadership ballot will be announced on 12 September.

## Crac A cra

#### Crackdown!

A crackdown on parking badge abuse in Liverpool has led to the withdrawal of 25 badges.

Most blue badge abuse occurs when relatives use them without the holder being in the vehicle.

Police stopped 60 people they suspected of misusing the badges. Twelve will be prosecuted and could face £1,000 fines.

Douglas Campbell, executive director of the Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA), welcomed the swoops, but feared relatives might have bullied badge holders into loaning them badges.

Asda, Sainsbury's, Safeway and Tesco have confirmed a meeting to discuss enforcing disabled parking spaces with members of the Baywatch parking campaign in September. Baywatch involves *DN*, DDA, Disabled Drivers' Motor Club and the British Polio Fellowship.

Keep sending in your responses to the supermarket parking survey on the *DN* website: www.disabilitynow.org.uk

#### In brief

#### **Controversy in France**

France's highest court has ruled that disabled people can sue doctors if their mothers were not offered an abortion.

The decision, widely condemned by disability groups, upheld a lower court award of damages to a learning disabled boy who had not been aborted.

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### Copyright demand

A national charity for blind people is calling on the Government to back a new Bill aimed at exempting material put into braille or tape from copyright laws.

Labour MP Rachel Squire has tabled the Copyright (Visually Impaired Person's) Bill.

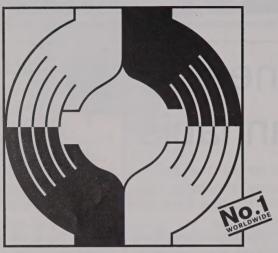
The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) called on the government to give the Bill

enough Parliamentary time to get through.

David Mann, campaigns officer at RNIB, said: "For blind and partially sighted people, copyright laws too often lead to social exclusion."

Currently requests by RNIB to put material into braille or tape for blind and partially sighted people cause delays and sometimes they are refused.

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# Mental health hope

The government will establish a unique mental health body aimed at coordinating mental health research, care and treat-

The National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE), which is the first of its kind in the world, will begin work in the autumn.

The news came as the Zito Trust revealed in a report\* that prescribing modern atypical drugs for schizophrenia, which reduce side-effects, can vary widely in different areas of the country. In some areas, five per-

cent of prescriptions for schizophrenia are for atypicals whereas the figure is 45 percent in other areas.

The atypical drugs are being evaluated by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), which judges whether drugs should be used.

While NIMHE will not have power to overrule NICE, Health Minister Jaqui Smith, said that "it will improve the care of and prospects for people with mental illness, leading to greater consistency in how services are delivered across

the country."

The organisation will be led by Professor Louis Appleby, the government's national directo for mental health.

Meanwhile, the Menta Health Alliance launched a Charter for Consensua Treatment in July, demanding a reduction in the use of compul sory treatment. It said this had increased because difficulties in getting early access to services could lead to a crisis later.

\*Practice Gap in Schizophrenia Free, e-mail: practicegap@ hillandknowlton.com

#### Motability 'inflexibile'

Two disabled women have accused a scheme providing cars for disabled people of inflexibility for repossessing cars when repairs are delayed.

Christine Hill, 48, of Kendal had her car taken away by the Motability scheme in May. She claims a delay in getting a quote and a series of medical problems meant she could not get the repairs done. In the end, she wanted to get rid of the car but could now face a bill for £668 to compensate the scheme for the drop in the car's value at resale.

Karen Hooper, 37, of London claims she was told by Motability that she could wait until the summer holidays to have repairs done as she needed the car to take her children to school. She said she did not have the money to have the repairs done earlier. Motability denies she even contacted them. Her children are now off school because she has been told the car will be taken away.

Motability said that it needed to ensure that cars are repaired so they bring a good resale price. Both women had been told repeatedly to get repairs done but failed after six months, it said.

A spokesman said: "The action is necessary to protect our customers from bearing the losses made by individuals."



SMOKING CAUSES FATAL DISEASES Chief Medical Officers' Warning

Lightin' up: An ad for Hamlet miniature cigars, with David Vear (left) and Jason Tomkin (right), who have growth impairment, had a target run in the UK. Give DN your opinion: see address, page 2.

#### In brief

#### Job hunting on the web

All posts advertised on a job vacancy website launched in June by the charity Leonard Cheshire offer a guaranteed interview to suitably qualified disabled applicants. It contains job ads by disability friendly employers. www.jobability.com

#### Subtitling guidelines

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) has called on the new media regulator OFCOM to extend subtitling requirements to cable and satellite television.

Currently, they do not have to provide subtitles at all. RNID wants to set a target of 80 per cent subtitling for cable and satellite TV.

### Battle ensues over the right to choose

Disability campaigners clashed over a woman's right to abort a disabled foetus at a conference on genetics.

Dr Tom Shakespeare, of the Policy and Ethics Research Institute at the International Centre for Life in Newcastle, said it was "illogical" to allow abortion for social reasons and not on grounds of "foetal abnormality".

He added: "If we support a woman's right to choose we have to accept that might include avoiding having a baby like us.

"That's quite hard to deal with, but I don't think it discriminates against me, and any emotional issues that I have should not prevent a woman making that choice."

But this angered Simone

Aspis, a member of rights group People First, who said she did not believe a woman had the right to "pick and choose the type of physical characteristics a baby will be born with".

She added that genetic testing needed to be used appropriately to ensure people did not just choose to give birth to non-disabled babies.

# **Council slated**

Two care staff who abused a severely disabled woman for over a year are still working in care homes.

The pair slapped, pushed, and shouted at Emily Harvey (not her real name), and also poked her with a pen during two separate assaults at Bridge House in Southwark, the local government ombudsman Edward Osmotherly found.

Southwark Council did not tell police about the assaults even though it was required to do so, and no-one has been prosecuted.

Miss Harvey sustained a "catalogue of injuries" during her 18 months at the home. She also had a fractured skull and broken fingers, but it was unclear if they were caused deliberately.

A council spokesman said that one of the staff was dismissed but later reinstated, while the other was "disciplined."

Mr Osmotherly said the council's care of Miss Harvey was "seriously deficient", and ruled there had been maladministration causing injustice.

Chris Bull, the council's director of social services, admitted the care had fallen short of acceptable standards.

Mencap said the council should reconsider its continued employment of them.

Meanwhile, at a conference organised by the women's committee of the UK Disability Forum for Europe in July, disabled women called for the creation of a national body to investigate the violence and abuse against women by carers and professionals.

Speaker Anne Pridmore said a national study was needed. She added: "We need to prove it happens by getting statistics."

# Deaf prisoners' rights denied

Deaf people in prison are missing out on early release, healthcare and education because staff and other inmates cannot communicate with them, a new report has said

A Double Sentence\* by the British Deaf Association found some deaf prisoners serve longer sentences than hearing people because a lack of interpreters means they cannot go on training courses that would entitle them to parole.

One of the 36 sign language using prisoners surveyed said he was disciplined after tapping a prison officer on the shoulder to get his attention, because it was interpreted as violence.

BDA chief executive Jeff McWhinney said: "This is an unacceptable breach of human rights."

\*Cost not yet determined, tel: 0121 246 6100.

Send news stories to Disability Now fax: 020 7619 7331

e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



# Council's plans labelled a 'formula for trouble'

Local authority policies of leaving disabled people to arrange home adaptations for themselves is a "formula for trouble" a disability group has said.

It follows revelations that wheelchair user Marion Vidolich, 26, has been trapped in her bedroom for nine years after builders left without finishing a stairlift and adapted bathroom. The firm was paid £20,000 by Newham Council.

The council said that when it

gives Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) for adaptations it is part of its policy of "empowering individuals" to get them to find the builders. Other authorities do the same, it said.

But Ali Safder, coordinator of Action and Rights of Disabled People in Newham, said he knew several similar cases where the policy caused trouble for disabled people.

The council said that Ms Vidolich can re-apply for DFG.

# Care oscars

Deafblind UK was praised for improving the lives of disabled people in the Government's new Health and Social Care Awards in July.

Other organisations which received awards were Gloucestershire Diabetic Eye Screening Service in the modernisation category, and the Asian Service Directorate in Birmingham, and The New Hope Project and Jigsaw Project, who had improved the lives of people with mental health problems.

Northern General Hospital in Sheffield was praised for improving access for disabled people, and Hampshire County Council's direct payments scheme also won an award.

#### In brief

#### New appointment

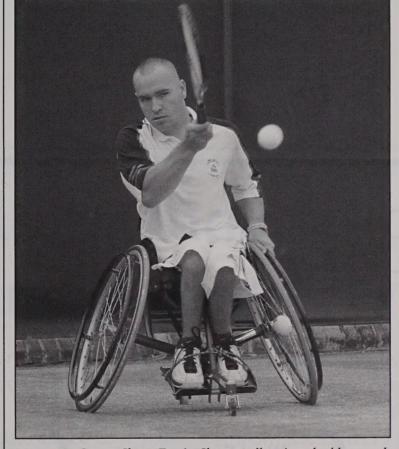
Linda Kelly was appointed chief executive of the Parkinson's Disease Society in July.

Having worked in the healthcare industry for 25 years, she was previously president of the UK arm of Astra Pharmaceuticals. She has also been a member of the board of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries.

She replaces Mary Baker.

#### Correction

The address for the Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living is: Park Road, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3EF, tel: 01773 740246. The July 2001 issue of *DN* listed the coalition's old address.



Move over Goran: Shane Everitt-Sharpe volleys in a doubles match at the wheelchair tennis exhibition held at Wimbeldon in early July. He and his partner, Matthew Faucher, played doubles against Dave Gardner and Kevin Plowman, who won the match 6-3, 7-6.

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# Prescription costs are a health risk

Disabled people risk their health because they cannot afford prescriptions, a new report\* has found.

People on Incapacity Benefit (IB) suffer most said the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux (NACAB) study. This is because they are not eligible for free prescriptions as their income level is above that of Income Support. A Welsh woman with glaucoma risked blindness when she couldn't afford eight items on her monthly £48 prescription.

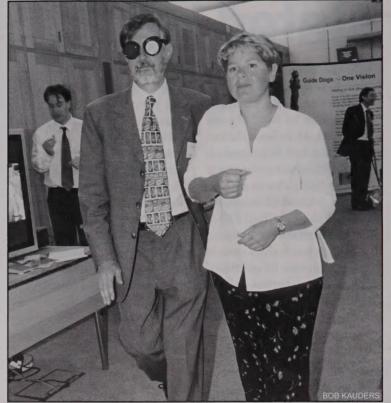
Of the 1,602 people surveyed, half had problems paying charges, while nearly 30 per cent could not collect every item in their prescription

because they could not afford it.

Over 70 per cent could not afford a pre-payment certificate, for £87.60 for a year, while 27 per cent were unaware of the system.

Juliet Tunney, parliamentary officer of The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, said: "It's worrying. People on IB are most likely to need prescriptions, yet they are free to people at 60, who are not necessarily ill and may also be quite well off."

NACAB is calling for charges to be either abolished or modified on a sliding scale according to personal income. \*Unhealthy Charges, £6, tel: 020 7833 2181



Vision mission: MP Eric Illsey, wears a pair of visual impairment simulator specs and is helped by Dee Beach at the launch of a Guide Dogs for the Blind Association eye care awareness campaign.

# News review

DN rounds up news covered in the mainstream media over the last few weeks

#### **Critical inquiry**

An inquiry has criticised Isle of Wight social services for not supporting a woman who killed her severely disabled sons. Melody Turnbull drugged and smothered Robert, 23, and Richard, 20, who both had cerebral palsy, were blind, incontinent and unable to walk or talk. She received three years' probation last year after pleading guilty to manslaughter with diminished responsibility. Her husband Ron said the inquiry sanitised events by omitting his evidence.

#### **Autism study**

The number of autistic children could be four times higher than previously thought. Researchers from the Central Clinic, Stafford, and King's College, London, studied 15,000 two to sixyear-olds in Staffordshire, and found 17 in every 10,000 had autism. Previous research suggested a figure as low as

#### Charity worker jailed

four in every 10,000.

British deaf charity worker Ian Stillman was sentenced to ten years in jail for cannabis possession in India. Stillman, who advises the Indian Government on deaf issues, claims he is innocent. A Foreign Office spokesman said Stillman hoped to get bail so he could be released from prison until his appeal against conviction is heard.

#### Nurse given life

A jury has sentenced nurse Alison Firth to life in prison after she drugged an elderly woman in her care to death. Firth worked at St Aidan's Nursing Home in Gateshead when she killed 84-year-old Alice Grant.

#### **VAT ruling in London**

Fears were raised that people in care homes would have to pay VAT on their fees after a tribunal ruled private firm, Kingcrest, which runs two homes in London, was a profit-making business and therefore subject to VAT registration. The Government promised measures to ensure residents will not pay extra.

#### New guidance for colleges

Universities and professional bodies are to be probed to ensure they teach students about disabled people's rights.

The Government has appointed the Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee (Dptac) to investigate whether education and training for jobs in design, engineering and transport planning include accessibility in the curriculum and to advise how it could be included.

Dptac chair Jane Wilmot said: "We must ensure that tomorrow's work force understands and has the skills to meet the needs of disabled people."

Richard Rieser, director of Disability Equality in Education, said that those planning courses should consult disabled people.

Disabled students can give their views on the Codes of Practice for the new Special Educational Needs and Disability Act, which comes into force in September 2002.

The codes are out for consultation until the end of October at www.drc-gb.org, or tel: 0845 762 2633.

# £200m boost in personal care denied to young Scots

Disability groups welcomed a cash injection of £200m making personal care free for pensioners in Scotland.

But they warned the move will create "a two-tier community care system," leaving younger disabled people still having to pay for such care.

The Scottish Executive has announced that £100m a year for the next two years will be spent on personal care for older people, starting in April 2002.

In addition, a further £86m will be put into health services

over the next three years.

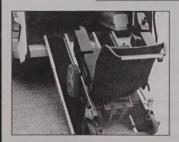
Capability Scotland hailed the move as "a significant step forward", but Kate Higgins, policy and parliamentary manager, added: "It would be inequitable for younger disabled adults to have to continue to pay for personal care after charges for similar services are removed for older people.

"We will continue to campaign to ensure that this doesn't happen."

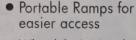
Those south of the border will be denied this free care.

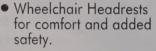


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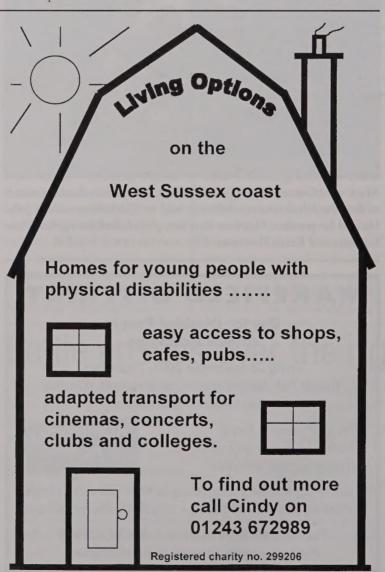
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Royal greeting: George Lawman, 19, who has epilepsy, met Prince Charles during a hospital visit. The Prince is backing an effort to raise £2 million for research into childhood epilepsy. *Tel.* 01342 831261

### Claims plan warning

Government plans to speed up medical negligence claims against the NHS must not lead to early but inadequate payments for disabled children, the charity Scope has said.

The Government's new plans include fixed awards for specific injuries and periodic payments over time to meet future needs.

Compensation costs the NHS £400 million a year.

Health secretary Alan Milburn said: "Fundamental reform of clinical negligence is long overdue. The current system does not work either for NHS patients or staff."

In cases where settlement exceeds £10,000 the average time it takes to settle a claim is five-and-a-half years. Scope said that cases involving cerebral palsy could take 11 years, which was unacceptable. But a spokesman said: "We would not want to see parents coerced into early settlements that disadvantage their children especially in later life."

While fixed payments would not be appropriate, periodic payments might help, he said.



A UN Convention on Disability is vital to any struggle for human rights, says Richard Howitt

any today forget that the Nazi's sought to eliminate not just Jewish people, but gypsies, gays, and disabled people too. In recent years, the exposure of appaling, sub-human conditions in residential institutions for disabled people in Greece and Romania still represents a denial of basic rights.

While such brutal abuses take place in our own society, they are thankfully rare. Yet some activists argue that the refusal of medical treatment to severely disabled persons and some genetic research and manipulation aimed at eliminating disability are also ethically questionable.

The defence against such breaches cannot be found in the laws of any one country.

The Nazi Holocaust forced the international community to proclaim indivisible rights for all in the world, which should never be denied – the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In the years that followed,

the United Nations (UN) recognised that special measures were required to apply the Declaration, and passed additional Conventions in specific cases.

This month, in Britain and Europe, a campaign was launched for a UN convention to protect the rights of disabled people everywhere in the world.

In the European Parliament debate on the Annual Human Rights report, I called for such a convention. The Parliament voted for special protection for persons with severe and multiple disabilities, and concluded that existing UN rules do not prevent abuse, for example, in cases of involuntary psychiatric internment. We called for disability to be recognised in every UN human rights instrument.

The convention is needed because such recognition has not been won in the human rights world. Neither Amnesty International nor Human Rights Watch report cases of abuse solely on the grounds of disability. Only one disability organisation — Disability

Awareness in Action – does.

As a legal instrument, a convention would endorse the human rights of disabled people, creating a monitoring mechanism so countries would be forced to report on compliance, and individuals could make complaints that their rights had been abused.

It can be argued that the main benefit for a UN Convention on Disability will be seen in developing countries in Africa and beyond. But we can be proud that Europe leads the way. The final decision will be taken in Geneva next March.

We in Britain should support the proposal and recognise that protection of the human rights of disabled people worldwide is an integral part of our fight for civil rights at home.

Richard Howitt MEP is President of the European Parliament All-Party Disability Intergroup. Website: www.edf-feph.org/apdg/ index-en.htm, or e-mail: ep@edf-feph.org

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# New registry for joint replacement

The Government is to set up a national register of people with hip and knee replacements.

The move comes after the publication of a report by the Royal College of Surgeons into the 3M Capital Hip System found that 13 percent of people receiving hips after 1991 needed to have them replaced again by February 2000. The Medical Devices Agency issued a hazard notice on the 3M Capital system in 1998.

The Government agreed to the report's call for a national register of joint replacements.

Announcing the plans health

minister Lord Hunt said: "Establishing this registry will lead to earlier review of patients with joint replacements, regular monitoring of performance of these new joints, and faster identification of those joint replacements that perform badly."

Around 40,000 total hip replacements are carried out by the NHS every year.

Dame Rennie Fitchie, who chaired the investigation, said a register would have allowed problems with hips to be identified earlier avoiding pain and potential immoblity.



Fat's the trick: Phoebe Robinson, three, who has epilepsy, eats a high fat meal that has helped reduce her seizures. Doctors in London are to test such diets on 120 children.

### Hope for Huntington's

Hopes were raised of a treatment for the degenerative brain condition Huntington's disease after an Italian led team found those with it do not produce enough chemicals to protect the brain.

The fatal condition affects 10,000 people in Britain.

The team led by Elena Cattaneo of the University of Milan, have discovered that mice with a condition similar to Huntington's do not produce enough of a chemical called BDNF which is vital for neurons in the brain to survive.

Dr Cattaneo hopes that the discovery will aid the development of treatments for the condition such as drugs to boost BDNF.

#### Diabetes reversed in mice

American researchers have reversed diabetes in mice by reeducating their immune system, offering hope for type I diabetes.

This occurs when rogue cells in the immune system attack insulin producing islet cells in the pancreas. It can cause blindness and heart disease.

Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, led by Dr Denise Faustman, used a natural drug called TNF alpha to destroy the rogue immune cells. The new cells were then transplanted into the mice, reeducating the immune system to stop it from attacking islet cells.

Dr Faustman said that "although the results are preliminary, this is an exciting finding."

#### In brief

#### Stroke recovery

The Stroke Association has published three new booklets on rehabilitation for people who have had a stroke.

The free booklets cover occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and physiotherapy. *Tel*: 01604 623934



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# Abuse compensation call

Fifty-three learning disabled people are suing a council they claim allowed a known sex offender to run two care homes where they were ill treated.

It is the first case of its kind, due to be heard at the High Court later this year.

The group, Justice for Longcare Survivors, claims Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) knew proprietor Gordon Rowe had been previously investigated for sexual abuse.

They are claiming compensation for psychological trauma after they were ill-treated and neglected at the Buckinghamshire homes.

Rowe committed suicide in March 1996, before he could be

charged by police. Three of his former employees were convicted of neglect and ill-treatment.

A BCC spokesman said they had "already apologised for the mistakes made by the inspection unit", which did not pick up the abuse.

She added: "We regret that it occurred, and hope a case like this won't happen again."



Cop a load of that: Northamptonshire police have installed a Ratcliff lift in their mobile police station, allowing officers to forge closer links with the community.

# Two schools for deaf set to close

Two schools for deaf children may close next year because they don't have enough pupils.

Ashgrove School in Penarth is Wales' only specialist deaf school. It is currently consulting parents about its proposed closure in September 2002.

Headteacher Brian Brayford said he had only 17 hearing impaired pupils. This was because neighbouring councils used special units in mainstream schools rather than sending children to his school.

The specialist unit for deaf students at New Kings School in London is also set to close in 2002, because parents prefer mainstream education.

The unit has just seven pupils, four of whom are due to leave to go to secondary schools over the next two years.

The British Deaf Association is concerned about the closures. A spokesperson, said: "Deaf children shouldn't be forced to fit an education system that may not address their needs."

# Bus company fails passengers

A Sheffield bus company has been criticised for failing to train its drivers to use wheelchair ramps on low floor buses.

Wheelchair user Allina Elliott, 21, has been told several times that she couldn't get on a low floor bus because the drivers couldn't use the ramp.

The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) has taken up her case and is demanding action to train drivers immediately.

First Mainline Sheffield's general manager Bob Hamilton said that four out of 18 major bus routes in the town have guaranteed access, with drivers trained to use the ramps.

Low floor buses were sometimes used on other routes, he said, but drivers were being trained on a rolling programme.

### Have you thought of fostering or adoption?

Michael

We are looking for a family for Michael, preferably with no younger children, who can offer him respite care most weekends and school holidays.

Michael is a friendly and happy 9-year-old boy of Irish origin. He has been diagnosed as Autistic with a severe learning disability.

He can become frustrated and impatient at times, although at other times he has a better attention span and can concentrate.

Generally, he dislikes changes in his routine.

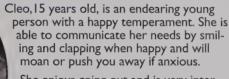
Michael is developing his use of spoken word and uses MAKATON signs and symbols to aid his understanding. He is a lively and energetic child, who enjoys going to the park, running and riding a bike. Michael has a good appetite and sleeps well.

He really enjoys seeing friends, his sisters and grandparents with whom he has occasional contact. Michael is placed in a specialist residential school in the Midlands.

The family should have lots of commitment and some experience of caring for disabled children. The placement will be supported by a fostering allowance.

Please contact: Michelle Littaur on ©020 7527 8567

Cleo



She enjoys going out and is very interested in her surroundings. She enjoys the experience of the weather, particularly the rain on her skin.

Cleo likes company but values her privacy too. In lots of ways Cleo is like a typical teenager – often wanting to sleep in!!

Cleo has cerebral palsy with severe learning difficulties. She has global developmental delay, functioning at an 18 month old level with mobility difficulties. She is dependent on a wheelchair, wears a full body brace and requires 24-hour supervision and assistance.

Cleo needs a permanent home with a family who can offer her a loving a secure environment and who can care for a child with severe disabilities both physically and mentally.

Cleo's birth mother is Jewish U.K, birth father Greek Cypriot

A generous financial package will be available to enable you to support and care for Cleo.

Please contact: Lindsay Wright on ©020 7527 8565

Carmel and Jessica
Carmel 7 years and lessica

Carmel 7 years and Jessica 2 years are half sisters who would very much like to grow up together.

Their birth parents are African Caribbean.

Carmel would like to live with a family who can cook Caribbean foods and who can look after both Jessica and herself. She enjoys school and hopes that her new school will

be as nice as the one she goes to now. She loves playing with her Barbie doll.

Jessica has been making some progress with her foster carers, but there is some concern about developmental delay.

Carmel and Jessica need a two parent adoptive family, who can reflect their ethnic and cultural background. Direct contact is planned with the children's birth mother and letterbox contact with their siblings. You may be entitled to an adoption allowance. You will be entitled to a settling in allowance to enable you to welcome the children into your family.

Please contact Paula Lyttle 020 7527 8581

☐ Carmel and Jessica

permanent adoptive families,

Please cut off and return this slip to: Islington Family Placement Service, 29 Highbury New Park, London N5 2EN

If you would like more information about any of these children:

☐ Michael ☐ Cleo

or about other children with a disability who need either:

☐ respite care ☐ long term fostering

please fill out your details and return this form

allic .....

Islington Council Family Placement Service, 29 Highbury New Park, London N5 2EN. Telephone: 020 7527 8560



Disability Now Summer 01

# Flouting the law

Many councils are side-stepping housing law and denying help to people who need adaptations. Emma Hawes looks at the lives of those affected

Theelchair user John Simpson has been waiting six years for Surrey County Council to build him a downstairs bedroom and bathroom.

John, 55, who has multiple sclerosis, sleeps in an armchair, uses a bucket for a toilet and a bowl to wash. Because of the strain, he and his wife Brenda are both on tranquillisers.

John says: "I now couldn't care less whether I live or die, it has got me down so much."

Brenda, 59, adds: "We still

don't know when the extension

will be built. At one point I

seriously considered leaving

when I couldn't cope any more.

people's lives like this?"

"How can they play with

DN highlighted the Simpsons'

plight last month. But while

their problems were caused

by a series of staff and

design changes, a new Joseph

Rowntree Foundation report\*

'Disabled people would receive better service if

councils applied the law properly instead of ignoring it.'

Even when assessments prove a person needs assistance, they can still miss out if they don't qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). And because the maximum grant is £20,000, social services often use the cheapest quote for adaptations because they have to make up the difference.

Councils also routinely fail to consult people properly, with many not even shown a picture of what they would be given, the report says.

Marie Pye, head of Disability

Discrimination Act policy at the

Disability Rights Commission,

says people struggle for years to

get adaptations. She adds: "The

system is a mess, and needs seri-

ous revision. Adaptations are

crucial. When they fail, they

fail so badly they completely

prevent independent living,

yet when they work there are

JRF report author Frances

tremendous benefits."

Nearly 80 per cent of the 266 people she surveyed said adaptations had benefited their

Heywood says: "Properly done, they are so beneficial, but when badly done they cause social exclusion, or embarrassment. One person stopped having visitors because they were so ashamed of the commode in the kitchen."

Other problems people had were grab rails that were unusable because they were put in the wrong place, inadequate heating in extensions, showers that were too small, and work that was poor quality.

Pye says a major problem is joint administration of the system by housing providers

The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 says a DFG must be given if the adaptation will enable a person to get in and out of their house, access a bedroom or bathroom, cook food or control their own lighting and heating. It also limits the wait to six months.

often try to cut their costs by using the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. which focuses on narrower medical issues. Yet Government guidance says they should use the more recent act.

Even those getting help face a severe means test for the DFG, which only disregards £51.60 a week for rent or mortgage payments, or £67.08 a week if the adaptation is for a disabled child.

Maggie Winchcombe, director of the Disabled Living Centres Council, says: "The system needs to be client-centred, and an overhaul has to be a priority. It's 30 years since the 1970 Act and we are only now coming to the nitty gritty of what it means to support people living at home."

Virginia Shaw, director of the National Disabled Persons Housing Service, who published a good practice guide\*\* for housing associations in July says more resources need to be available to back up the legislation and guidance.

Ian Agnew agrees. He is foundations@cel.co.uk

director of Foundations, the national co-ordinating body for home improvement agencies (HIAs) which help disabled people raise money to pay for adaptations. He says there is "a background of ever-decreasing resources and increasing waiting times for grants."

The Department of Health and the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions are producing guidance for councils on improving the process, due to be published early next year.

But while this will help, disabled people would receive a much better service now if councils applied the law properly instead of ignoring it. \*Money Well Spent:

The Effectiveness and Value of Housing Adaptations, due to be published 1 August, www.jrf.org \*\*Needs First, HoDis, tel: 01904 653 888.

Foundations, puts people in touch with HIAs which assist disabled people to adapt and repair their homes. Tel: 01457 891909, e-mai

health in some way.

So why is it so difficult to get the right help or any adaptation at all?

and social services.

But while the housing agencies use this act, social services

has found they are not alone in Heywood believes even expenstruggling to get help. sive adaptations are good value. Many councils ignore the They prevent accidents and law and overlook people's lessen demand on carers to help needs to save money, it says. people live more independently.

Pauline and Stephen Jones were faced with finding £12,000 for a through-floor lift for their 11-year-old daughter Celyn, who has cerebral palsy, after they failed the means test for a Disabled Facilities Grant.

Unable to afford that, they built a £3,000 extension at their home in Wales. Pauline believes the means test is unfair: "It should be more realistic so people on an average income like us can get help," she says. "We have been let down by the system."



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All washed out: John Simpson, at home with his wife, Brenda

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Motability

She's fought for the underdog, but will Maria Eagle battle for disabled people, Rod Hermeston asks

- aria Eagle is a keen cricket fan having Lplayed for Lancashire in her youth. As the new Minister for Disabled People, she is already defending a sticky wicket from her own party's spin.

Disability groups are furious at the Government's plans to get disabled people off Incapacity Benefits (IB) and into work.

Eagle's boss Alistair Darling announced plans to limit awards of IB to three years, after which claims could be reviewed. Campaigners felt it was aimed at gaining right-wing support, almost a "howzat?" to the Tory press. Many disabled people feared they would be turfed off IB, and told to find a job.

I wave a piece of paper in front of Eagle showing that the civil service employs only three (yes, three) percent disabled staff. Shouldn't the Government put its house in order?

"We have to do better," she admits.

But of course I have got it all wrong on IB, she tells me.

"What we are doing is looking at people's situation after three years. 'Let's see what help we can give you if you want to get back to work."

It's not about kicking

# Will Eagle dare?

disabled people off IB at all, she says. It is about helping them find work. And this only affects new applicants. The statistics roll out. Disabled people are seven times more likely to be unemployed. One million of them want jobs.

Yet Neil Betteridge, head of public policy and campaigning at Arthritis Care, says the announcement was bound to distress people. Eagle may not be responsible for IB, but she must stand up for disabled people, to "command respect".

"Disabled people are anxious and distressed, and still hurt by the Government's previous handling of welfare," he says.

I wonder if this is quite the start to a ministerial career that Eagle had hoped for.

Her first political foray came when she and her twin sister Angela tossed a coin for the Labour candidacy at a school election when they were nine. Angela lost the election.

Their father, a trade unionist, encouraged their interest in politics.

Eagle was a childhood chess genius and recalls thrashing "big burly men" at the local chess club. But being prevented from playing cricket at school because she was a girl fuelled

her early feminism.

She studied at Oxford and became a Liverpool based solicitor, doing personal injury work in employment law, and taking housing cases.

Eagle says she "ruffled some feathers," among her local council by encouraging tenants living in "terrible conditions" to take legal action.

She was elected as Labour MP for Liverpool Garston during Blair's first landslide in 1997, joining Angela who had been elected in 1992.

And she was an aid to John Hutton while he explained that personal care would not be free for people in residential settings.

But it must be said that Eagle impresses people with her commitment to the underdog.

Ian Hernon, political correspondent at the Liverpool Echo, says: "Anything that she regards as an injustice, whether we are talking about disabled rights or sexual or racial discrimination, is the stuff that gets her hackles up."

And her own sister says she tends to go in "boots first" when she sees injustice.

John Knight, head of external policies at Leonard Cheshire, hopes some of that energy will be directed at the



Legal Eagle: the new Minister for Disabled People

Disability Rights Commission (DRC). He says there is disappointment that the DRC has not shown more muscle and been more clear about the cases it will take up: "The DRC needs to be refocused. It needs a clarity of purpose."

But Eagle replies that the DRC is still consolidating itself. "It is a bit early to criticise them for being unfocused," she says.

Eagle initiated the Fur Farming Prohibition Act 2000. So the least we can expect is that the Government would allow the DRC the right to take cases under the Human Rights Act, I suggest – something the DRC has requested. But she says this is being considered in the context of the other

equality commissions.

The Minister for Disabled People must actively support disabled people within Government, campaigners say, influencing transport or health policy, not just jobs and benefits.

"She must not be constrained by Whitehall boundaries." says Knight.

Eagle sits on a new committee on equal opportunities chaired by Baroness Morgan, which she says will help.

She adds: "I want to see what works in practice and how best I can act as a focal point for disability issues within Government."

Disability groups will watch carefully to see that she delivers.

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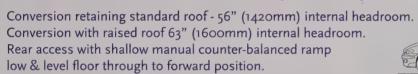
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# Auto or manual: you choose in the new Corsa

Martin Renouf takes the Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Easytronic for a weekend's spin

fter you've test driven a vehicle at the Mobility Roadshow, it is easy to think a longer drive in everyday driving conditions would be a good idea. I had the opportunity, when the show Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Easytronic was delivered to my home for the weekend, with a full tank.

What makes the car different from the usual Corsa is the gearbox with automatic or manual mode.

The car had push/pull hand controls so all I needed was a temporary raised floor behind the passenger seat to help me load my wheelchair. Then, with my normal driving cushion and extra help from the driver's seat adjuster, I was ready to go. Not quite, because I had forgotten to press the brake while trying to start the car. Memory

refreshed, I was off round the block for a first go, fascinated by all the digital displays.

I had planned two test trips. One was via the M25, returning through High Wycombe and Reading.

The car was a good motorway cruiser with a fivespeed gearbox, so the choice between manual or auto mode was immaterial.

As a daily automatic driver, I tend to keep the throttle in a fixed position while accelerating. This can result in the Corsa sagging when it wants to change up a gear. If I remembered to ease off the throttle when the car wanted to change, then there was a more satisfactory feel. On the steep hill out of High Wycombe the car changed down fairly sharply; in those sort of



Built for speed: Martin Renouf out for a ride in the new Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 available from Motability

conditions, and descending steep hills, using manual mode would be a good idea.

Later on, I had fun with the manual mode. Approaching roundabouts and flicking the lever down one or two gears was a pleasure, just as it was using the shift lever on the undulating roads between Caversham and Oxford. Back into automatic mode through

> Reading with no problem but, as before, it was better if you thought of the gear changes and adjusted the

Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 available from Vauxhall Motability, tel: 0870 442 1570

My second trip was to Wye valley near Monmouth. Motorways are motorways, be they the M25 or the M4 to Wales. However, I was glad of the electric windows when we got to the Severn bridge and I had to show my orange/blue badge at the toll booth.

Then on the main road to Monmouth, passing Tintern Abbey, with a quick stop for a photograph. Leaving, I had to make a hill start to rejoin the

'A good choice for people who want to be a bit more involved in the driving experience than they would be with a conventional automatic.'

main road and was disconcerted by my initial difficulty balancing the handbrake and throttle while pulling away.

On the single track roads to Penallt, we only had to back up once into a passing space when we met someone coming the other way. No problem backing, but rear head restraints do spoil the view. I

thought myself lucky to be driving a small car in these narrow lanes, though.

We were soon back into manual mode for the steep hills down and past the pub by the river Wye, opposite Redbrook. We parked in a drive.

Later, when trying to reverse out of the parking slot, I again started to move forward before I balanced the handbrake with the throttle - old techniques I needed to improve. Up the steep hill in first, occasionally managing second, and on to Chepstow, the M4 and home.

The fuel tank registered just under a quarter full at the end of more than 350 miles. A range of over 400 miles would be easily achieved - a bonus for those who have difficulty with self service petrol stations.

A no-deposit version of the Corsa is available through the Motability scheme for Disability Living Allowance users, but the Comfort version I tested requires a £299 deposit.

This car is a good choice for people who want to be a bit more involved in the driving experience than they would be with a conventional automatic.

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ILLUSTRATIONS: CLARE CURTIS

### Tips from scooter owners

I use a technique in my Class 2 powerchair learned in my cycling days, called "high siding". It means that you stake a claim to your share of the road; you don't cringe in the gutter.

Riding along three to four feet from the kerb, depending on the road width, will force anyone who has to drive round you to change lanes rather than attempt to squeeze past in the same lane. This may cause them a few seconds delay if someone is coming the other way. Tough.

People in receipt of Incapacity

plete the "incapacity for work

sometimes every six months to

check on whether their condi-

tion has changed. It includes a

Agency already has the right to

demand a medical examination

provision that the Benefits

at any time.

Benefit are required to com-

questionnaire" (form IB50)

Two other weapons in my armoury are a mountain rescue strobe which enhances my visibility hugely (I know showing a white light to the rear is illegal, but staying alive is more imporant), and a cyclists' air-horn, the Air-Zound from Canada – of far more use than the feeble beeper fitted by manufacturers.

Ron Graves Prenton, Wirral

I have had a scooter for nearly three years and when out on

It souns as if we re being

Mel Richards

rity coffers.

David Youngs e-mail

Uplands, Swansea

accused of lying on our forms.

Surely it is time disabled people

Darling that it is not us that are

the spongers on the social secu-

got together and showed Mr

the road I get "Off the road, you f.....g cripple". I've got to the pitch now where I take no notice of them.

Stephen Lewis
Bedwas, Caerphilly

I go to the Lakeside shopping centre a lot with a manual wheelchair and scooter, and I find the easiest way to travel is to get behind two or three people at a safe distance and pace myself to their walking speed. G Burt Grays, Essex

#### Good for the NHS

After reading "Hearing aid services neglected" (*DN*, June), I would like to put in a good word for the NHS. My hospital, the Royal United in Bath, along with others, is running a pilot scheme for digital hearing aids, up to now only available in the private sector. Well done. Maria Turnbull

### Grab what you can

Mrs Greenfield suggests it is greedy to claim benefits whilst receiving income from a compensation claim (*DN*, June). Anyone who thinks personal injury compensation is the way to riches beyond their dreams is sadly mistaken.

Our daughter suffered severe brain damage during an anaesthetic in 1986. We sued for compensation, and, in a case which lasted 12 years, claimed the cost of help and care needed to make her independent of her family and the state.

In an out of court settlement we accepted a little over half the claim. We were told that the offer was as much, if not more, than we were likely to get if the case went to court.

To make the money last we continue to care for our daughter and organise care by others. But because income from the claim makes her ineligible for Income Support or the Independent Living Fund, we get no help from the local authority. Although our daughter is certainly better cared for, we, her parents, work as hard, if not harder, than any other carers. The real beneficiary of the compensation claim has been the government.

Until British law recognises the full costs of disability and attempts to make the victims of personal injury truly independent people in the community, the recipients of compensation payments should be able to claim all state benefits.

Roger Edwards, e-mail

#### You've got it all wrong

I am concerned that Rachel Hurst's misrepresentations of what I said in my lecture should not be allowed to undermine people's confidence in the Disability Rights Commission (DN, July).

She says I claim that disability rights have gone too far. I do no such thing. I said: "I believe that disabled people do have rights – importantly the right to be treated as equal citizens, given equality of opportunity and not discriminated against. Furthermore, they have the right, as far as possible, to fulfil themselves in main-

stream activities, by receiving mainstream services delivered in the normal way, as part of the mainstream of society."

Rachel Hurst maintains that disability rights have not gone anything like far enough. I agree. I said: "I believe these rights are sufficiently unful-filled that they need to be backed by law, and we have some way to go before law, practice and understanding have developed to the point where these rights can be said to be fully delivered in practice."

My lecture was a plea for a more nuanced approach to rights, not an attack on them. Colin Low, RNIB

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#### PC pulse

by Dan Batten

#### Bitter pill

A potentially interesting piece in *The Sunday* 

Express on a medicine called Zeldox, to help people with schizophrenia control violent mood swings, let itself down badly with the headline "drug hope for psycho killers" and a mention of Christopher Clunes, a man with schizophrenia, who murdered a man on the tube all of nine years ago. Just reinforcing Joe Public's fears. wasn't it?

#### Bad call

Congratulations to reader J Hartley who spotted a howler by BBC commentators at Wimbledon. When getting an autograph from Pat Rafter, a fan was singled out as "the wheelchair woman". Thousands of people are at Wimbledon each year, "Auntie". Do you draw attention to their seating?

# 'I always wanted to be a mother'

Kirsten Battle has faced the slings and arrows of being a disabled mum. Now she's started a support group

ram 26 and, since October 2000, I have been the single mother of Abigail, 5, and Matthew, 20 months. Recently I set up a support group in Leeds for mothers with disabilities.

I always wanted to be a mother and went for tests to explore the possibility in 1995. The consultant was slightly negative, but I was determined to go ahead. Six weeks later, a scan confirmed that Abigail was on her way.

Having had no problems conceiving, I was disappointed to find that my hopes for an easy pregnancy were thwarted by constant sickness that often put me in a hospital bed. My bump showed so little that when a woman in a shopping centre saw me rubbing my tummy, she said: "Oh dear, have you eaten too many Easter eggs? Here, have a leaflet for Weight Watchers." She was

were probably "braxton hicks" - practice contractions — they could not be sure. This meant that I had to return every time I felt twinges. Abigail adapted to the situation well, often accompanying me to my scans and asking more questions than I did. At 35 weeks, Matthew Lewis was born by planned caesarean.

The children adapted easily to my disability. As babies, they held onto my T-shirt when I tried to move with them. Even as toddlers, they sat still on my knee. Surprisingly, 'Abigail draws pictures of me standing up – a sign that she doesn't "see" my wheelchair.

She also notices (and complains) about shops that do not cater for disabled customers. When she was just two-and-a-half, she went into an inaccessible bakery to get our lunch, banged on the

'While out shopping, I'm often asked: "Whose children are they?" "These two aliens?" I say sarcastically. "I bought them for £2.99 each at Woolworth's, but I'm taking them back for a refund - they're too expensive."

shocked when I thanked her and said that I would be in contact after giving birth.

Arriving four weeks early and weighing just 4lb 13oz, Abigail was a wonderfully easy child. In an attempt to save my marriage, I decided to try again. I was quite confident and prepared this time and found the hospital and staff in Leeds much more helpful and considerate of my needs.

I wanted an easier pregnancy, but felt contractions at 21 weeks and was rushed to the hospital. While the staff reassured me that the pains

counter, demanded to see the manager, and said: "I was going to buy a sausage roll for me and a doughnut for Mummy, but I won't because you haven't got a ramp". The manager apologised and gave her our lunch free. A ramp was available the following week.

Unfortunately, not everyone shares Abigail's progressive views. While pregnant with Abigail, my local midwife told me I should ask for an abortion on the grounds of my disability: "disabled and therefore unfit to be a parent". While out shopping, I'm



Variety Club, the greatest children's charity in the world, welcomes applications to its Easy Riders Scheme, for assistance with funding for mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, buggies and trikes, on behalf of children with special needs under 19 years of age, from a financially disadvantaged background.

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often asked: "Whose children are they?" "These two aliens?" I say sarcastically. "I bought them for £2.99 each at Woolworth's, but I'm taking them back for a refund they're too expensive."

In response to comments from other disabled mothers, and with the help of Women's Health Matters in Leeds, I have set up a support group that helps women who are, or want to become, mothers, and campaigns for better facilities in hospitals, clinics and playgroups. It also explains to health care workers, including students, how they can meet the particular needs of women with disabilities. We are now campaigning for better facilities in our local NHS maternity and paediatric wards, such as accessible bathrooms and height-adjustable cots.

Starting the group wasn't easy: we had to be sure the building for meeting was accessible and had a room for our crèche. I was amazed at people's attitudes: independent living centres were accessible, but refused crèche facilities; sports centres rarely had two rooms, and few community centres were accessible.

The future looks bright for me and my family. I have spent



The fruits of labour: Kirsten with Abigail, left, and Matthew Lewis

over six months as a single parent, which I found surprisingly easy (thank goodness for on-line shopping) and now I have a new partner

who is very supportive. As for baby number three ... If you are interested in joining the support group, write to Kirsten, c/o DN, address on p2.

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# Barn free

Acres of space: Adam and Agnes' kitchen/dining room is open-plan to enable easy wheelchair access to all parts of the house. Adam Thomas drear He made his dream Here is what he achi

ver since I left school at 16 and started designing kitchens, I've dreamed about living in a barn. When I broke my back a year later, the dream seemed less possible but even more desirable: open plan living, space!

My one-bedroom housing association flat was fine for me, but when I met my wife, Agnes, it shrunk to doll's house proportions. It eventually felt like Hampton Court maze with all the clutter. We gave up having a kitchen table and friends round for dinner – no room.

We spent seven years together plotting, dreaming and saving. When a friend said he'd seen some barns to be converted, we hardly dared hope that one of them would ever be ours. Eighteen months later, it was – but those months were among the most stressful and exhausting of our lives.

It took a while to convince the developers we were serious. This scruffy looking bloke in a wheelchair kept turning up and trying to haggle over the price. Eventually, when we proved



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could get a mortgage, our offer pted. Then came the fun: we walls and 120 square metres of he rest was up to us – a 's dream.

The original design had lots of oms and corridors with tight s we now have it, it is one room the way around, with an open chen, dining and sitting room. design, we wanted to add extraid windows. It couldn't be e site was listed. But that after I went to see the g people at the council. One of outles.

ideal world, you purchase a or or plot of land, hire an as project manager, then a and pay in instalments as work their own architects and who didn't want to change their designs. At any time over the 18 it took to build, it could all have rough. We had to pay for elated items, such as my shower g before the contract could be to was nail-biting stuff as we over our precious savings on the of a handshake.



His & hers: A bath tub for Agnes (above), while Adam's bathroom (above right), has a toilet and shower designed for his wheelchair. Below right: Adam and Agnes outside on their custom-made ramp.

how difficult and stressful it can be to negotiate the disabled facilities grant system. If you get a good occupational therapist and environmental health officer, it helps. You may be entitled to a £20,000 grant and even a second discretionary grant of a further £20,000.

if you can't get into their homes). Most people spend at least a third of their lives there — disabled people probably much more. We also need more space than most people, something that housing planners should consider when embark on huge building projects planned for the next few years.

Every disabled person should have space to be able to move around safely and easily, without everyday activities sapping precious energy and time.

Adam can be contacted at Design Matters, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, tel: 01628 531584, www.dmkbb.co.uk

of a handshake.

a further £20,000.

What Ag and I appreciate

a friend said he'd seen some barns to be converted, rdly dared hope that one of them would ever be ours. een months later, it was — but those months were

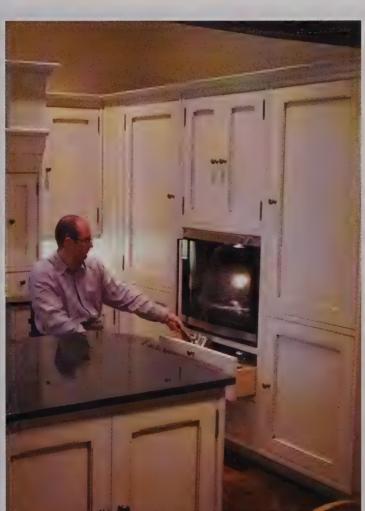
itchen was the most important the house. My principles are w maintenance and style, not ily in that order. On the safety have a side-opening oven door, t have to reach across a scalding nto the oven, and an induction r safer than gas, electric or and very easy to clean. ends as little time as she can in en (shopping is more her thing). e plastic bags are through the ake over. I've designed the so that I can reach everything ittle movement as possible. The sink are the correct height for he peninsula unit, which houses ing machine and dishwasher, is t makes a good worktop if Ag out as I cook.

the most stressful and exhausting of our lives'

yone who is spinally injured or h someone who is spinally knows, we don't whiz in and out athroom in minutes. Ag spent unhappy hour or two in our with legs tightly crossed! e flat, we had a wheel-in shower for me but Ag, with arthritis iosis, loves having a hot bath. I have His and Hers, one with a d one with a shower. Two people with different needs for.

we both work, we paid for urselves (well, the bank did) ng in the business, I called in 20 orth of favours. From the time I ne out of the hospital, and now work, I know only too well

more than ever is just how important your home is to your quality of life. It's where you relax and see friends (especially



Easy access: Adam in his kitchen, he can move freely and everything can be easily reached.







#### **Exhibitions**

The Royal Academy's summer exhibition is an institution in the British art world representing the acceptable face of contemporary art. This year, in a bid to lose its fusty image, the Academy invited several young British artists to enter. One of them, Marc Quinn, won the Charles Wollaston award for the show's most distinguished work. Ironically his sculpture, Catherine Long, fits neatly into the classical mould - a life-size female nude carved in marble, with one arm missing.

A second glance though

reveals the twist: the person, not the statue, has one arm. Quinn was struck by the fact that statues with bits missing have long been accepted as ideals of beauty, while actual people with bits missing have been completely invisible.

Some may question the legitimacy of a non-disabled artist tackling such an issue similar arguments have been made about film. Personally, I feel that having challenged the taboo and struggled to drag disability onto the social and cultural agenda, we have to be grown-up about other people entering the debate.

One key factor is control. There is no doubt that disabled people have rarely had control over their own image or its use.

In this case, the sitter was an informed and willing collaborator with the artist.

Another factor may be intention. The pose echoes a classical goddess and exudes a beautiful self-confidence which is reinforced by the fact that Quinn transformed a body cast into gleaming white marble.

For me, this smooth finish lacks feeling, and reminds me more of mass-produced tourist carvings than original artifacts. It's also unclear how it will be perceived by others: as an object of beauty or voyeuristic fascination. But perhaps that uncertainty is the point.

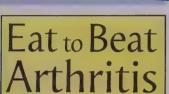
In taking the prize, it puts disability top of the agenda, which can only be welcome.

Adam Reynolds



Reinventing beauty: Marc Quinn with Catherine Long. The Royal Academey summer exhibition runs until Monday 13 August 2001. Tickets £7/£6 senior/disabled people.

#### **Books**



Marguerite Patten and Ewin, Ph.D.

arguerite Patten and Jeannette Ewin's Eat to Beat Arthritis offers over 60 easy-to-prepare recipes which Patten, who has arthritis herself, swears by. It also includes a list of foods to avoid and a

seven-week diet plan. £9.99, Thorsons.

The Mind book of the year award went to Kate Rankin's Growing Up Severely Autistic: They Call me Gabriel, a personal account of raising her son, Gabriel, who has autism. £12.95 Jessica Kingsley.

Jenni Meredith's evocative collection of post-modern poetry, You're Really Cutting Me Up? Poems Inspired by Colchester and Tendring Hospitals, covers the ins and outs of hospital life from an original angle. £6.99, Cathap.

The third edition of the Welfare Benefits Handbook has been published by the Child Poverty Action Group. At bookstores and libraries.

#### Film



Say It Isn't So, the latest from the infamous Farelly brothers, looks at the life of animal shelter worker Gilly. Gilly has one problem in life: he doesn't know who his parents are. So he hires a private detective to find them.

While waiting for the news, Gilly falls in love with Jo. As the pair's relationship develops, the detective discovers they share the same mother. When Jo then moves away to marry an old flame, Gilly discovers the detective has got it wrong — Jo is not his sister after all. Cut to a last-minute cross-country chase for Gilly to get Jo back.

Cue happy ever after ending.

Amid the mish mash of a plot, tired clichés of disabled people pop up. Jo's Dad is left to rot in the corner, croaking through his voice synthesiser and is nicknamed R2D2 as a result. Amputee pilot Dig has his legs stolen, while others display signs of learning disabilities allegedly caused by inbreeding. The real clincher is when mum has a stroke as a punishment for her shrewishness.

While disability references are offensive enough, what really grates is that there is still an audience for a kind of film so unfunny and lazy it hurts. While it's only August, I'll bet a tenner it finds its way onto a year end worst-of list.

Dan Batten

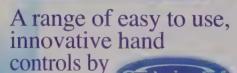
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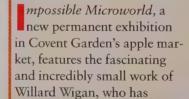


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#### Coming up 💿



dyslexia. Included are miniature statues of Adam and Eve, carved from a pencil lead, and Snow White and the Seven Dwarves in the eye of a needle. Adam Reynolds will review the exhibition next month. Tel: 01225 333003 or www.theimpossiblemicroworld.com

🎶 excellent, 👯 very good, 🍀 good, 🗞 OK, 🥊 🖽

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to the ridiculous Bad Girls

(ITV) with everything in between. In the latter, Kate O'Mara plays a posh disabled brothel owner inconvenienced by an inaccessible jail. Completely unwatchable. The former was notable for Neil Pearson's performance as the late John Diamond. Director Olivia Lichtenstein cleverly wove original footage of Diamond's decline with extracts from his weekly Times columns,

conveying his complex rela-

tionship with his throat can-

cer. It was inspirational rather than mawkish - a fit-

ting tribute.

nixed bag this month -

from the sublime *A* 

Lump in My Throat (BBC2)

A couple of potential C5 freak shows were absorbing viewing. Siamese Twins told the fascinating story of the American Galyon brothers who joined the circus but held no rancour over their exploitation. Similarly, Eng and Chang (the original) Siamese twins weren't held back either they married and fathered 22 kids - not bad by anybody's

standards. I worried that Alien Hand Syndrome would be another spooky, spoofy doco, but as redeemed by the ubiquitous media-shrink Dr Raj Persaud. We all know about hands with "a mind of their own" but this was serious, related to stroke, epilepsy and other brain disturbances. The brain holds many mysteries and surprises. Like C4's Banzai the Old Lady Wheelchair Chicken Challenge. You had to be there really.

Jane Shepherd



# The dream

..... Becomes reality



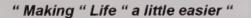






#### Drive directly from your own wheelchair

It's unique, a fully automated Drive from Wheelchair solution is here - Suzuki Life and it is set to revolutionise the lifestyle options for many with disabilities. It's a car, take a look for yourself and you will hardly be able to spot the difference and what's more neither will anyone else. But on the inside it is very special indeed. Fully automated, remotely controlled tailgate and fold out ramp systems give instant access to the radically modified lowered floorpan - right up to the driving position where the wheelchair is automatically locked down. Press the button to close the tailgate, press another to release the handbrake, engage the automatic gearbox and you're anay. Just 30 seconds or so, including time for you and your two passengers to put on their seatbelts.





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DN continues its three month Out and About special series with more trips for all the family

# Space: the final frontier?

Helena Edwards checks out the National Space Centre in Leicester, exploring the outer regions that humans have conquered — and what they have yet to accomplish at home

ribbed rocket tower dominates the skyline in Leicester, covering two soaring rockets, Thor and Blue Streak. That's the new National Space Centre, costing £53.3 million and expecting 2,000 visitors a day after it opens on 30 June. My daughter and I went to the preview, I on my mobility scooter.

The centre is dedicated to space science and astronomy, using high-tech audio-visual media to educate in an entertaining and often interactive way. Five "themed galleries", including "Exploring the universe", "The planets" and "Orbiting earth" offer exciting hands-on games and challenges, many at heights suitable for wheelchair users and small children. There are space suits and moon rock to see, and you can have your

picture taken with E.T..

Thor and Blue Streak are surrounded by "decks" at different levels, featuring technology exhibits, including satellites and interactive displays. Alas, I didn't see them because the glass lift to the top of the rocket tower (with its spectacular views) starts on the mezzanine floor, and the lift from ground to mezzanine only just fitted my scooter. When its mezzanine door opened beside me at a 45 degree angle, exit was impossible. This was an inexcusable design fault in a modern public building. I was told later that staff can call the glass lift to the ground floor if asked, but it was out of order.

There have also been technical problems with subtitling, which is vital because background sounds broadcast over the centre combine with overlapping exhibit soundtracks. While there is one induction loop in the theatre, more loops would be helpful.

A visitor with impaired sight struggled with some displays because of the subdued lighting and print colour choices. Braille literature is, apparently, in production. But the moodsetting lighting and sound features certainly give a distinctive atmosphere.

The space theatre is compact, an inclined 58ft diameter dome. The show, "Big", is an amazing experience (though not suitable for people with photo-sensitive epilepsy). Computer controlled lasers, lights and special effects machines caused me to duck when an asteroid shot at me!

Spaces for manual wheel-chairs are in a tight line at the back, which separates parties, and are allocated on request (so do that when buying tickets). My medium sized scooter could not manoeuvre and caused an obstruction.

"Greeters" open the centre's heavy outward opening entrance doors (let's hope there are no staff cuts), but the toilets and restaurant are independently accessible, crowds permitting. We found car parking was limited and the Discover Leicester Tour running from the centre uses traditional double decker buses.



Theme park of the future: rockets inside the Space Centre.

So, what did we think of this new exhibition? The gallery displays were accessible and entertaining. But the overall experience for powerchair or scooter users is still based on a "You only have to ask" school of thought, and even helpful staff can't rebuild a lift shaft, doors or a theatre.

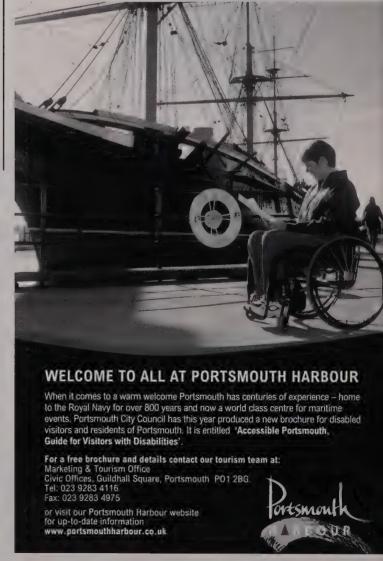
The Space Centre is a Millenium project, a lasting testimony to how mankind can use technology to reach the planets – but not, apparently, the second floor.

The National Space Centre, Exploration Drive, Leicester, tel: 0116 261 0261, e-mail info@spacecentre.co.uk. Summer hours: 9.30am-6.30pm Tues-Sun, 12pm-6.30pm Mon. Advance tickets (additional booking fee payable) tel: 0870 607 7223 or online at www.ticketmaster.co.uk Tickets at the door: adult, £7.50, child (5-14 yrs), senior citizen, student, disabled person £5.50, family £22-£27



Out of sight: Helena Edwards checks out an exhibit that some visitors may struggle to see





If you go to Birmingham, as Dan Batten did, you'll find Ancient Egypt

¬hink of Egypt and you think of pharaohs and mummies, not of board games or the dietary habits of the ancients. Yet a new exhibition in Birmingham takes a look at these things, and more.

Egypt Revealed is great from the start because everyone can get in via stairs or a lift at the main entrance. Inside, the exhibits are spaced out enough for wheelchair users to move comfortably. It's also a kid-friendly show, with lots of things to do, including the chance to write your name in hieroglyphics and try on some mock Egyptian costumes.

The show reinforces the maxim "small is beautiful" with some stunning statues, including one of Imhotep, who lived from 664BC to 630BC, and was King Djoser's chief officer in the third dynasty. Imhotep built pyramids and was revered as a wise man and made a god 2000 years after his death.

There is a unique kneeling statue of Rameses the Great, who ruled for 67 years during the 13th Century BC and also managed to father 100 children. Pharaohs were considered deities, so it was unusual for them to kneel unless to a god greater than

In addition to the obligatory sarcophagi, the oldest known example of a mummified woman was on display. Nicknamed "Gingerella" by the museum

themselves.

because of some orange hair on her head, she was buried in the desert around 3,200BC and is naturally dehydrated and extremely well preserved. Beware, though, she is "unwrapped"

We also learn about the Egyptian diet. Most people ate bread, fruit and vegetables, with meat saved for the rich. They liked a drink too. A label from an Egyptian wine bottle shows little change in wine packaging over the years, with details of year, vineyard and which estate it came from. If the grape wasn't for you, beer was "the drink of the masses".

While they were swigging on a bottle of Pharaoh 1664BC, the Egyptians liked to play games. There is a "snake game" you can try out and an original "senet" set to see. Senet looked like a cribbage set, and was played for fun but also seriously, to

> determine whether you would reach the afterlife. Even if you know your

Ancient Egypt backwards, you'll be impressed by the show. A perfect day out for dad and the kids. And Mummies.

> Egypt Revealed is

at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, until 23 September, 10am-5pm Mon-Thurs and Sat, 10.30am-5pm Fri, 12.30pm-5pm, Sun. Adults, £3.50, family (two adults and two children) £10. concessions £2.50. Tel: 0121

303 1966.

King of the Nile: Rameses II, above, who ruled Egypt for 67 years





Return of the dead: Gingerella, above, and the wooden figure of a hawk, left, a symbol of the sky god Horus.

# The mummy returns Running on water

Trevor Kent and his son, Warwick, go water skiing

**⊣**he blurb on the brochure claimed that "no matter your age or disability, water skiing could be a 'can do' for you". Warwick, my 18-year-old son who has cp, and I spent a day with the British Disabled Water Ski Association (BDWSA) to see if that was true.

Chris Lee of the Association said that the group was formed in 1979 by ex-RAF amputee, Tony Edge, and now has five centres from Scotland to the Southwest. Their set-up close to the M25 was very impressive.

Warwick, who recently had a spinal fusion, declined Chris's offer to don a dry suit (apparently easier to get into than a wet one). He opted for driving his chair straight onto a



Warwick Kent heads out

Rest of world

specially adapted boats with a drop-down ramp at the sharp end. Meanwhile, others got their bums wet and spirits high on the seated mono skis



Catch a wave: Viv Orhard-Bloor at the World Championship

provided by the Association.

Wheelchairs were cast aside as people slid or were lifted onto snug and supportive ski seats. Then it was just a matter of sliding off the jetty into the water, with many a crack of "go jump in the lake" from friends, family and supporters.

A moment of suspended animation while two instructors positioned themselves either side on similar skis and then, woosh, the massive V8 tug boat accelerated ("it runs on LPG - liquid petroleum gas (no pollution)". And off they go, all spray wake and smiles.

As for Warwick, he thought the place was "super," and was sad he "didn't feel fit enough that day to go the full monty,"

DN subscriptions

but plans to in the Autumn. Even though he hates water, he'll take a stab at skiing as soon as he can.

My reaction as a spectator was: give it a try. Whatever your disability, the instructors and helpers have seen it all before and are rarely beaten.

The BDWSA has "try days"

most Saturdays, April to October; individuals or groups are welcome. A first experience may lead to a lifetime hobby, or possibly the world championships - who knows? Contact Chris Lee at The British Disabled Water Ski Association, Heron Lake, Hythe End, Wraysbury, Middx. TW19 6HW, tel: 01784 483664, e-mail: info@bdwsa.org.uk

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### Hot fun in the summertime

Dan Batten offers tips for fighting boredom this August

Fancy visiting
a cathedral this
summer and travelling
in style? Take a ride on the
cathedral express. Running
every Wednesday throughout
the summer months, the
express is a steam-hauled
express train which makes trips
to Canterbury, Salisbury,

Winchester, Chichester, Bath and Ely. In addition, a variety of posh on-board food is offered – not cheap, but definitely a very special treat. Prices from £39.50, with one way fares available for £25 if booked within two days of travelling. Tel: 01483 209888 or visit www.steamdreams.co.uk



Music festivals at Reading and Leeds, 24-26 August,

will appeal to noise lovers. Run DMC, Travis and Ash, among others, play both festivals for three days. For info on disability facilities and tickets, try the box office, tel: 020 8961 5743, or www.meanfiddler.com



Back on the historical track, Somerset House in

London has some of Catherine the Great's treasures on show, including jewels, gold medals and portrait miniatures, including Russian, European and Chinese works of art. The exhibition is in the Hermitage

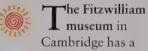


Vililius Eriksen's Equestrian Portrait of Catherine II at Somerset House

Rooms, which have been decorated to look like the Winter Palace and its various wings that make up the State Heritage museum in St. Petersburg. Tel: 020 7836 8686 for more information and to book a parking bay.

Castle Ward in Downpatrick,
Ireland could be just

the thing if you're into country estates. This Georgian
National Trust property is set on 750 acres of land and contains an old cornmill, sawmill and leadmill as well as horse trails and formal gardens. There is also a caravan site and holiday cottages are on site.
Tel: 028 4488 1204 or e-mail: ucwest@smtp.ntrust.org.uk



number of varied exhibitions on offer for art lovers this summer, including a show of ceramics and glass works by Alan Caiger-Smith and Peter Layton. There's also a look at surimono, privately issued Japanese prints painted on expensive thick paper that combined images and poems commissioned by poetry clubs associated with actors and artists. The building does have stairs in it, and it is advised that disabled visitors call first to make sure their needs can be

met. Tel: 01223 332900.

Ever wanted to go underwater in a submarine? Pop along to the Imperial War Museum in London and you can do just that at their exhibition which explores life in an underwater vessel. On display are an eightfoot cutaway model of E29, a first world war submarine, a polaris missile guidance computer and mementos from servicemen and women. For the young and young at heart you can also look through a periscope, operate escape apparatus and experience what life onboard a submarine is like. On until 30 September. Tel: 020 7416 5000 or visit www.iwm.org.uk



# An affair to remember

Dan Batten explores the ups and downs of love on vacation

ummer loving can happen so fast. If you're single, you may not be looking for the one that you want for life on your summer hols, but some unexpected romance can make your trip all the more memorable, even if there are a few bumps in the road ahead.

Take Claire Smith. She met her holiday hunk on a family holiday to Majorca last year. Although Claire, 21, who is a wheelchair user and has spina bifida, clicked with her man straight away, her parents didn't help the path of love run true. "They were terrible, fussing around all the time. All they kept saying was 'are you sure he's right?' They meant well but it got a bit much".

Getting time alone with her new man proved a nightmare, so Claire learned how to "lose" her family. "One day dad was loading our van for a day out," she recalls. "I'd arranged to meet my new man, so I told dad he'd left something inside. Once he emerged again, something else had left - me!"

Claire hasn't seen her man since she returned, but has no regrets at all. "I now have a regular boyfriend back home" she said. She added that mum and dad have relaxed a bit more, "although they still worry too much for my liking".



Tell me more, tell me more: John Travolta and Olivia Newton John share some summer lovin' in Grease

own when this chap who wasn't looking where he was going tripped over my wheelchair," she said. "He picked himself up, apologised and started chatting away to me".

Although Samantha and David got along famously, seeing each other every day for the next week, Samantha was always aware of her carers. "They were really good and kept a distance but they always had to be within earshot in case I needed something. David made out that it didn't bother him, but I think the fact that he couldn't just walk off with me without a carer did." The pair stayed in touch for a few months after the holiday, but it "fizzled out" after that.

to them at 8pm their time," he said. "Another problem was maintaining continuity. When you only saw someone for two weeks out of every eight, you always had to rebuild and make the most of the time you had, rather than the relationship flowing naturally."

Despite the drawbacks, Simon endorses continuing a holiday romance when you're back home. "The whole experience is very exciting and being with someone from a different background is great."

A holiday romance can bring you to that special person, but you may need patience and a

was sure she liked me as well before we even spoke". But when they first spoke, Jon realised things would be difficult. "She spoke very little English and I couldn't speak her language at all".

Undeterred, Jon wracked his brains for a solution. After some thought, he came up with a wonderfully simple one. Armed with a phrase book and pen and paper, Jon and his new woman friend, Suki, drew their way to each other's hearts. "It was like using hieroglyphics, and we'd write down the word for the picture in our language underneath the sketch".

This "art from the heart" worked, as the couple are getting married next year, with Jon planning a move to Tunisia to be with Suki. "I never was great at art," said Jon, "but my penmanship did the trick."

Even though that quick

A holiday romance can bring you to that special person, but you may need patience and a dash of inventiveness to ensure it ends happily ever after

dash of inventiveness to ensure it ends happily ever after, as Jon Finesilver found out. Jon, 35, who has epilepsy, was instantly drawn to a woman he met in Tunisia in 1998."I was bowled over by her immediately, and I

glance may not work for everyone, it's always worth taking a chance. Your Sandy or Danny could be around the corner, ready for that summer holiday you'll never forget. Some names have been changed

#### "Jane is so much fun, I haven't a clue how I managed before she came along"

Although Claire was independent enough to get away on her own, it can be harder if you need more personal care, as Samantha Morris found out. Samantha, 27, who has Friedreich's Ataxia, went on a trip to the Lake District accompanied by two carers when she was 20 and met a man named David in a pub. "My carers went to order a drink and I was sitting on my

Holiday meetings can sometimes lead to long-term overseas relationships. Simon Minty, 33, had two relationships with women living in America. One was "love at first sight," lasting three years.

Simon, who has restricted growth, says that conducting transatlantic relationships wasn't easy. "For example, because of the time difference, I had to wake up at 4am to speak

#### Love at first sight? It happens!

Someone who had the time of her life on holiday was Philippa Jones from Leeds. Philippa, 37, who has an amputated arm met her present partner at the Edinburgh festival last year and was astounded at how quickly she fell for her. "I normally take quite a while to open up to someone but the second Jane and I met, that was it. We spent a week and a half at the festival, drinking copiously and getting very passionate," said Philippa. The passion spawned love, and Jane moved in with Philippa in March. "Jane is so much fun, I haven't a clue how I managed before she came along", said Philippa.

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love and loneliness bereavement personal problems advice and support Darnbrough, who is disabled herself, is co-author of the Directory for Disabled People and other guides. Write to her at Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or e-mail your problem to editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

ILLUSTRATION BY CLARE CURTIS

#### Housing needed

am disabled with polio and desperately need help finding suitable housing for me and my two daughters. I have been trying with no luck.

Are there any housing projects for disabled people, or any housing associations in London or surrounding areas?

My council has not been helpful. What they have offered is unsuitable and does not account for my disability. They want me out of my property as soon as possible.

Shola, London. I'm sorry to hear about your problems. It can be so worrying to find a suitable place to live.

It is important that you stand firm with your local authority. If they want you to move out, they must provide

tel: 020 7380 6500

you with alternative housing. It must be completely acceptable to you and your needs as a disabled person. They cannot make you leave by a particular date until they have fulfilled their responsibility to your satisfaction. They should also give details about local housing associations and the accommodation they can provide.

It is important to get people with influence on your side. When you do, your local authority will become much more helpful. First, contact your MP, Tessa Jowell. You could write to her at the House of Commons or find the address and telephone number of her constituency office from your local library. She holds her local MP surgery regularly,

which you can attend. House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Benefits Enquiry Line, tel: 0800 882 200 Directory of Social Change, 24 Stephenson Way, London N1 2DP, tel: 020 7209 5151 (publisher of guide to individuals in need) Arthritis Care, 8 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD,

Also contact your local councillor. Southwark town hall can give you the name and contact details. Good luck.

#### Should I stay or go?

'm caught in a love triangle Land need advice. My regular boyfriend can't do enough for me. While supportive of me, he lacks excitement in bed.

I recently met a great looking, sexy guy in a London nightclub and we spent the night together having unbelievable sex. A few weeks later, I met up with an old flame who has done extremely well for himself financially. Since then he has showered me with gifts and invited me on a trip to the Caribbean.

Should I stay with my current boyfriend who is reliable but dull, and continue to sleep with the other guy, or should I go with my rich ex, who could offer me a secure life, though I don't love him?

As a disabled woman, all the extra activity and strain is

#### Scared of knee replacement

Thave problems with my knee and it is quite painful. It turns Lout that amongst other problems I have arthritis. This is a really unwelcome surprise, since I don't have arthritis elsewhere.

My doctor may consider a knee replacement and I am a bit frightened about this. Can you suggest how I can find out more about the operation before I talk to my doctor again?

I recommend two very good leaflets available free from Arthritis Care. A new knee joint produced by the Arthritis Research Campaign and Your guide to total knee replacement.

affecting my health. My friends think I'm in a great situation, but I need an objective view.

Anna, London What is your regular boyfriend doing through all this - isn't he suspicious? I'd worry if he weren't. But I suspect you don't love him because if you did, you wouldn't be carrying on with these other men.

You obviously know your "rich ex" well, but do you think he'll settle down with you after the fling? It didn't work out last time. Rich or not, if you don't love him, you'll soon tire of him, and he will quickly realise this. If he's rich, he'll have no trouble finding someone else.

As for the wild sex, it's good to have this experience and you'll always remember it, but it doesn't usually last.

If you decide to stay with your regular boyfriend, try speaking to him about what you could do together in bed. Get a book with illustrations or a video to turn him on and give him ideas. Remember, a good guy is hard to find and many women are looking for them.

Of course you could just junk all three and start again.

#### Managing money

Treceive a range of benefits for Imultiple disabilities. Nevertheless, I have serious financial problems and cannot make ends meet. Much of my disability money is spent on complementary therapies. As they aid many of my symptoms it's crucial I continue them. Most of my ailments don't respond to orthodox medicines

Are there any organisations or charities that can assist disabled people financially?

Jessica, Londo: No doubt you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to, but it still may be worth calling the benefits enquiry line for disabled people.

It's surprising how helpful family histories can be for revealing benevolent associations that may help. If either of your parents were in a trade or professional organisation or the armed forces, there are benevolent institutions. A Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need should be in your local library.

You say you spend a lot on complementary therapies. There may be cheaper alternatives, and you may be misled about the effectiveness of your current treatment. Taking tablets and medicines can seem useful, but they are not necessarily true experiences. Try ringing my colleague, Lin Berwick, below. She has a diploma in homeopathic medicine.

#### Help at the end of the phone



DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick gives disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, with a postgraduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. If you have something you need to discuss in confidence, talk to her on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm, tel: 01787 882111.

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#### **Bright ideas**

Pocket flashlights and ergonomic computer mice are just some of the gadgets that make life easier. Dan Batten reports

ver been out and about and found that the spare battery you have in your pocket is too small to power that bit of kit you need to use? Well, carry a battery upsizer and it will never happen again. The upsizer is a shell that lets you insert a smaller battery into the shell to upsize it, from an AAA size up to a D cell. The power of the battery is drained quicker when using the upsizer, but it's still a useful bit of kit for emergencies. £1.99 from Gizmos UK, tel: 01327 300874 or visit www.gizmos-uk.com

oes the table you use for changing in your shower room get in your way? Is it at the proper height for your carer? An Astor-Banneman wall-mounted changing and showering table may be the answer. Covered in woven polyester nylon, the table is available for adults and children, height adjustable from floor level to 900mm, and can be folded against a wall when not in use. The height can be adjusted via a hand held control console with an a electronically driven system, and safety guards can be supplied if required. £2,097.50p plus £280 installation and delivery, tel: 01865 880567.

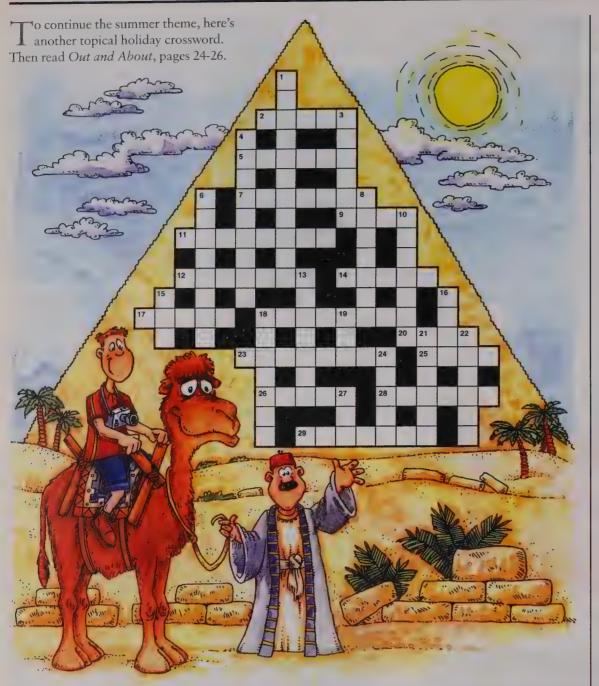
aving trouble seeing the L keyhole when the light isn't so good? It could be you need a Beacon Keylight. The light fits snugly in your trouser pocket and can be turned on and off with a switch. Besides helping you get indoors easily late at night, it's also handy for searching for the TV remote control when it decides to hide itself behind the sofa. £7.99 (inc. p&p), www.iwantoneofthose.com tel: 0870 241 1066.

or people who want to exercise their legs on a long flight or in a cramped space to help prevent deep vein thrombosis (DVT), the new anti-DVT cushion, left, could be just the thing. The cushion consists of two air-filled chambers that you place your feet on, and uses a series of

suggested exercises that manipulate your legs to help prevent DVT. While the cushion is not guaranteed as a preventative device, it is medically approved. £14.95 from Hughes DVT Cushions Ltd, Wessex House, Westbury, Sherborne, Dorset ST9 3EH, tel: 01935 814360, or e-mail: enquiries@dvtcushions.com

rf your computer mouse gives you Lunwanted twinges, try the trackball mouse from Microsoft. It lets you spin the whole ball with your hand without moving the mouse casing, eliminating lots of wrist movement. £49.99, tel: 0845 700 2000 or www.microsoft.co.uk





#### **Candid Dan**



It must be summer. Dan's about to spend his time in muddy fields, with lukewarm beer and his ears bleeding...

With the sun being kind enough to show its face at last, it can only mean one thing for yours truly; all day gigs. By the time you've read this, I'll have rapped with Run DMC and got funky with Isaac Hayes. But the real fun comes at the end of the month when I go to the *Leeds Festival* with Becky.

It's going to be fun. I'm not too keen on Becky's choice of dance tunes and mogadon miseries like Travis, while she likens listening to most of my favourite and somewhat noisy bands to having her teeth drilled. Still, the prospect of watching "my man lose his marbles over Green Day" is proving attractive to her.

Indeed, she is raving about how good it will be to have me around for a week and a half, extolling the virtues of my company, and my ability with a paintbrush. Call me suspicious,

but I'm wondering if this bout of flattery has something to do with her moving into a new house that will need a few things lifted, moved and painted.

...Becky likens listening to most of my favourite and somewhat noisy bands to having her teeth drilled

Staying indoors, I've

decided to bring my love of the cinema into the 21st century with a DVD player. While it will be expensive replacing my tired old videotapes with shiny little discs, it will make getting a film out of "the library" in the hallway that much safer. Why? Well, with around 500 tapes in slightly unstable piles 80 high I am prone to being smacked on the head by the odd flying tape. I also worry that a scout to find my copy of *The Mummy* could result in my being trapped like one, never to be discovered until my own mummy pays me one of her irregular visits.

# CROSSWORD SPONSORED BY Creating opportunities with disabled people LEONARD CHESHIRE

CROSSWORD BY JIM MCLAREN
ILLUSTRATION BY VALERIE BARR

#### ACROSS

- **2.** Its tourist attractions include the Sphinx and Pyramids (*5*)
- 5. Applied to prevent sunburn (6)
- 7. Registration area in an

airport (5-2)

- 9. Beach covering (4)
- 11. Where backpackers may spend the night (8)
- **12.** Malay and Javanese garments worn by men and women (7)
- **14.** Trips organised by travel reps (5)
- 17. Japanese fish dish (5)
- **18.** Largest of the Canary Islands (8)
- **20.** Sunbathers do it to cool down (4)
- 23. Holiday makers take foreign....with them (8)25. Long-haul continent for
- British travellers (5)
- 26. Venice and Florence are two of its top tourist attractions (5)
- 28. Tourists may ride them uneasily in Egypt (6)
  29. York feature with beautiful stained glass windows (7)

#### DOWN

- 1. Tourists' pastime (11)
- 3. Venus Williams' sport (6)
- 4. Its Tower and Pleasure Beach are well-visited attractions (9)
- 6. Rulers of Ancient Egypt (8)
- 8. Kenya's capital (7)
- 10. We measure the
- temperature in these (7)
- **13.** Spanish drink of red wine and lemonade (7)
- 15. Here Comes The...., a famous song by the
- Beatles (3)

  16. Polynesian garlands of
- flowers (4)
  18. Is trout cut up by this
- traveller? (7)
- 19. Score in cricket (3)
- 21. The kind of temperatures the British expect abroad (6)
- **22.** *My Boy Lollipop* was her 1964 hit single (5)
- 24. Cowes Week vessel (5)
- **27.** Currency required in Japan (3)



If you would like to learn more about BP, please telephone our Distribution Services on 0870 241 3269 for a free copy of our audio cassette which gives highlights from our Annual Report 2000.

ANSWERS ON PAGE



Visit www.youreable.com for information and advice on disability.

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s e n s e

#### · What's on

The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) will hold a two-day conference, 8-9 September, Heathrow. Saturday is for those working with children/adults with hydrocephalus and/or spina bifida, and their parents. Sunday sees two adults discussing how hydrocephalus affects their daily living and employment. Contact Liz Clayton, tel: 0118 972 4013, e-mail: liz@nickel-free.freeserve.co.uk

• ASBAH will also hold a study day, 13 October, Needham Market, Suffolk, looking at hydrocephalus and its implications for learning and behaviour. Contact Valerie Meyer, tel: 01379 871071, or ASBAH East Region, tel: 01733 555988.

• A second study day will be held 1 November, entitled Living with Hydrocephalus, covering education, employment, medical treatments and personal experiences. Contact Shirley Large, tel: 01733 555988, e-mail: shirleyl@asbah.org

Harrogate Management Centre (HMC) and the DoH will hold Delivering Improved Services For Older People -Implementing The National Service Framework (NSF), 13 September, London. It will discuss the NSF, age discrimination, modernising care, and recruitment. Workshops will cover mental health and dementia, intermediate care, and stroke. Full details from Liz Haw, tel: 01423 506611, e-mail: info@hmc.co.uk

• HMC will also hold Implementing The Mental Health Needs Of Women - Ensuring Effective Services, 18 September, London. Topics will include gender differences and their implications for services, women and abuse, and treatment issues. Contact as above.

Practical Strategies For Autism and PDD is a free presentation by Raun Kaufman, from the Autism Treatment Center of America. It will discuss the Son-Rise Program used at the Center and Raun Kaufman's own recovery from autism. It will include maximising speech and language development, motivation to accelerate learning, and dealing with repetitive behaviour. 13 September, Bromley; 15th, London; 18th, Edinburgh; 19th, Belfast; 20th, Birmingham; and 22nd, Dublin. Full details, tel: 00 1 413 229 2100 ext 145, e-mail: tour@option.org. For Belfast, tel: +44 028 90 401729, e-mail: info@papa-ni.freeserve.co.uk

#### Organisations

moving forward Forward is

a new association for people with muscle spasticity, their carers, and health professionals. It aims to campaign for better services, increase public and political support and awareness, and provide information. Tel: 020 7629 7242, e-mail: info@movingforward.org.uk www.movingforward.org.uk

#### Publications

Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia has published a new edition of Dementia: Money and Legal Matters, a guide for people in the early stages of dementia, and their carers in Scotland. Including the new Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, it covers what benefits can be applied for, what happens if a person moves into a home, and how to access money in a relative's account to pay their bills. £3.50 (inc p&p). Single copies free (with 76p SAE) to carers and those with dementia in Scotland. Send to Alzheimer Scotland, 22 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7RN.

Skill - National Bureau for Students with Disabilities has published Into

Volunteering: Positive

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 2. Egypt 5. Lotion 7. Check-in 9. Sand 11. Campsite 12. Sarongs 14. Tours 17. Sushi 18. Tenerife 20. Swim 23. Currency 25. Asia 26. Italy 28. Camels 29. Minster **DOWN:** 1. Sightseeing 3. Tennis 4. Blackpool 6. Pharaohs 8. Nairobi 10. Degrees 13. Sangria 15. Sun 16. Leis 18. Tourist 19. Run 21. Warmer 22. Millie 24. Yacht 27. Yen

Experiences of Disabled People. It hopes to increase the number of disabled volunteers by showing how to get started, giving useful contacts, stories of experiences (from Brownies to gardening), and examples of good practice for organisations. Free to individual disabled people until 31 December. Contact Sue Beckford, tel/text: 020 7450 0620.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation has published two new editions in the Directory of Opportunities series. The Directory of Further Education Opportunities covers access, support and course provision for disabled people in over 250 mainstream colleges. The Directory of Supported Employment Opportunities details over 360 supported workshops, their client group, products, and services. It also lists relevant publications. £25 (inc p&p), contact Leonie Riddett, tel: 01306 875156, e-mail: leonie.riddett@diss.org.uk

Arthritis Care has published Arthritis Arthritis Care has Care Hotels – Empowering People with Arthritis, a new guide to their four hotels in Nairn (near Inverness), Poole, Largs (Clyde) and Blackpool. The hotels have awarenesstrained staff, and adaptations such as adjustable beds and no-touch lighting. They can even offer speciality breaks such as painting and theatre. Free, from Arthritis Care, 18 Stephenson Way, London NW1

2HD, tel: 020 7380 6562.

Motorhome Monthly (MMM) – Mobility is a magazine dedicated to disabled motorcaravanners. Packed full of information, news, reviews, tips, travel articles and an equipment directory, it will be distributed free with the October issue of MMM, on sale from 27 September. Subscriptions, tel: 01778 391180, e-mail: subscriptions@ warnersgroup.co.uk

Motorcaravan,

(Continued over page)

# Independent Living promoting independence

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www.independentlivingevents.co.uk

#### · What's on

Learning Disability Today exhibition will be held 26 September, London. It will present the latest innovations and developments in this field, and seminars will include housing options, complex needs and partnerships with families. Full details, tel: 01273 623222, www.pavpub.com/pavpub/ldtoday

Scope and Sevenoaks Adult Education will hold Empowerment For Life, a 10-week personal development course for disabled people living around Edenbridge, starting 26 September. It will give disabled people the chance to review and develop their interests, skills and achievements. Contact Barry Hayward, tel: 01959 564686, fax: 01959 562021.

The Wakefield District Day for Disabled People will be held 28 September, Wakefield. Under the theme of education and employment, exhibitors will include self-help groups, support agencies, voluntary groups and manufacturers. There will also be activities and performances. Full details, tel: 01924 375899, e-mail: wakefieldw3dp@hotmail.com

Telford Disabled Awareness Day will be held 3 October, Princess Royal Hospital, Telford. It will highlight the needs of younger disabled people and discuss ways for them to meet. Full details from Neil Nash, tel: 01952 222743.

The Tourism For All Consortium, Springboard and Chelsea Village Hotels (London) will hold a Conference and Job Fair entitled A Partnership Towards Inclusion, 23 October, promoting careers and jobs in the hospitality and tourism industry. Chelsea Village Hotels are acting as an example of good practice and Springboard will launch research into perceptions within the industry. Full details, tel: 020 8942 2998, e-mail: maundy@globalnet.co.uk

Kid-e-Quip, the largest paediatric event in the UK, will be held 31 October-1 November, Bolton. There will be hundreds of products on display, free training and education seminars, round-the-table discussions and activities for children of all ages and abilities. For free tickets, tel: 01282 455528, www.kidequip.co.uk

#### Websites

JustVanilla is a new web service offering people advanced web accessibility. Users set personal web access preferences, rather than alter the set up of their own computer. So, no matter where you access the internet, your preferences are available to you. You can alter colours, text sizes, font types, word spacing,

and have animations removed. www.justvanilla.com

Independent Living is a new website for elderly people, carers, and others in this field. It has news, financial advice, places to go, a jobs section and product information with pictures. www.independentliving.co.uk

#### PERSONAL ADS

For personal ads, submit about 25 words and send a cheque or postal order for £10 payable to Disability Now with your ad

To reply to a personal ad, indicate the Box Number and mark your envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not, it will be opened. Send to DN, address far right.

#### **DISABILITY NOW LINAGE**

Tel: 020 7619 7320, Fax: 020 7619 7331, E-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

#### Personal

YOUNG MAN, 38, with cerebral palsy, wltm another gay guy with similar disability for friendship and maybe more. Box No. 113

FEMALE, 28, SLIGHT cp, likes music, cinema, theatre and sports, wltm similar male, 25-35, for friendship/relationship. London area. Box No. 114

INTELLIGENT FEMALE 35, lives independently, but no car. Employed. Part time wheelchair user, has Spina Bifida, n/s. Interests include listening to pop/soul music, general socialising, swimming, current affairs, reading, history and art. Seeks similar male. Bristol area only. Box

#### Wheelchairs/scooters

**OUICKIE F55 POWERCHAIR.** 18in with righthand controls, vgc. New £4,000, sell for £1,800. Tel: 01372 466451 (Surrey).

#### STERLING MIDI SENIOR

3 scooter with charger, basket. Range 23 miles, max speed 4mph, metallic red, 1997, hardly used. Cost £2,000, accept £650. Tel: 020 8505 4272.

THREE WHEELCHAIRS: 1 electric Rascal Premium, 1 manual Carter, plus 1 other manual. Offers welcome. For details, tel: 020 8549 4619.

STERLING 4-WHEEL MIDI SNR 4 scooter with charger and extra battery. 2 years' old, hardly used, £900 ono. Also Sterling 4 GL, 4 years' old, still working. Offers invited London area. Tel: 020 7281 3176.

#### **BALDER F290 WHEELCHAIR**

Used for less than a year. Lay and stand option, £6,500 ono. Tel: 020 8876 4535.

#### · Cars/vans

CONSTABLES CARCHAIR, AS new. Cost £4,600, accept £2,000 ono. Tel: 01524 782010 or 01524 782710 (Lake District).

TOYOTA LIGHTACE, K reg, 84k miles, MOT December. Wheelchair and 5 seats, ramps, winch, service record. £2,500 ono. Tel: 01242 673227.

NISSAN PRAIRIE 2.0 SLX, J reg, 56k miles. Brotherwood rear ramp conversion, electric front windows, pas, infill seat, fsh, MOT until April 2002, 1 owner. £9,000. Tel: 01634 231756.

CONSTABLES ATTENDANT CARCHAIR and lift system, including hoist/ramp. Cost £4,075, accept £890 ono. Tel: 01268 778632.

DAIHATSU HIJET, WHITE, 1998, S reg, less than 5,500 miles on clock. Wheelchair carrier with winch and ramps, 6 seats, unleaded petrol. £5,500 ono. Tel: 01702

METROCAB, DIESEL, AUTO, 1994, M reg. Pas, 15k miles only. One private owner, fsh. £7,800. Tel: 0114 255 4957 (S. Yorks).

#### **FORD FOCUS 1.8**

T reg, petrol, red, air conditioning, 27k miles. Constables carchair lift conversion and wheelchair. £9,000 ono. Tel: 01949 850592, e-mail: s.baxter@lineone.net

FORD TRANSIT VAN 2.5, diesel, auto, metallic blue, S reg, c29k miles. Drive from wheelchair. Electric windows, tiedown, accelerator, brake and gears. Remote control rear doors and lift. Horizontal steering. Radio/cassette. Fsh, good condition. £15,000 ono. Tel: 01505 683342, e-mail: bethanb@vahoo.com

BERLINGO 1.9 DIESEL, T reg, 1999, Brotherwood conversion, 28k miles, air conditioning, pas, remote locks, electric windows. £12,450. Tel: 01279 723457.

CONSTABLES CARCHAIR, GREY, attendant control wheelchair and lift system, 2 handset controls. Fit into Escort cars. £650 ono. Tel: 01637 877632.

NIPPI 80, DEC' 1995, 4,500 miles, reverse gear, reinforced ramp and base. Takes large wheelchair. £3,100 ono. Tel: 01964 551655.

VW SHARAN TDI 1.9, 1998, R reg, manual, 19k miles, green. Fsh, air conditioned, Brotherwood conversion, 59in headroom, 1 year MOT. £19,500. Tel: 01256

CITROEN RELAY MINIBUS, P reg, 1997, 33k miles. Fitted with rear ramp plus track/clamps. 7 seats, MOT, no VAT. £7,450. Tel: 01483 233640 (Guildford).

CONSTABLES ATTENDANT CARCHAIR complete system. Fits most vehicles with sliding back door, and Ford Focus. £1,500 ono, Tel: 01283 216116.

NISSAN PRAIRIE MK2, 2.0 LX, white, J reg, Brotherwood conversion, ramped rear wheelchair access, two rear seats and removable infill seat. Pas, MOT, vgc, 73k miles. £7,800 ono. Tel: 01730 816889.

#### Household/family

CEILING MOUNTED HOIST. Ideal over bed or bath. £480. Tel: 01943 862406 (Yorkshire).

MOTO-MED VIVA therapeutic exerciser, 2 years' old. Cost £1,800 new, will accept £800. Tel: 01256 329263.

#### THERAPRO STANDARD SINGLE

bed with hand-held controller. 3-year warranty from January 2001. Cost £1,495, accept £950. Tel: 01283 716218.

ELECTRIC CEILING HOIST, 9ft straight track including slings. Will take weight up to 0.5ton. Can quote for fitting if required. £950 ono. Call Tony, tel: 01923

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

#### Help

MALE ESCORT SURROGATE. Tall, attractive, understanding, empathetic for all types/needs of females. Contact John, tel: 07939 444489.

#### Combined

ALVEMA TRAX RECLINING pushchair, used twice, £450. Britax carseat, £60. Tel: 01442 401400.

#### Wanted

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PEOPLE carrier, any make. Tel: 01179 540786 (preferably after 5pm).

WHEELCHAIR EXCESSIBLE VEHICLE, 5 or 6 seats plus wheelchair ramp or lift, or MPV with person lift to passenger seat. £4,500-£5,500. Tel: 01255 224367

#### Accommodation

#### **DERBYSHIRE, GROUND FLOOR FLAT**

within a house. 3 beds and bathroom upstairs. Large living room and kitchen downstairs. Interconnecting door to flat under same roof with own front and back doors. 2 beds. Living room, kitchen, bathroom adapted for wheelchair user with portable hoist. Garage. Level parking front of house. Garden front and back. Edge of village with chemist, surgery, corner shops and churches. Buses along road to Chesterfield (6 miles), Nottingham (18 miles). £165,000. Tel: 01773 873462.

#### **NEWLY BUILT MOBILITY**

flat. A large one bedroom apartment for sale in Hove/Brighton, East Sussex. Lower ground floor. Allocated covered car parking space. ½ of a mile from the sea front. For further information please contact The Bradford & Bingley, tel: 01273 206107.

#### **4-BED DETACHED**

Narborough village, near Leicester. Fully wheelchair accessible inside and out. Bedroom with wheel-in shower on ground floor, 3 further beds upstairs. Study, gch, low sink and hob etc. Close to Fosse Park shops, rail, countryside, M1 and M69. £135,000. Tel: 0116 286 2540.

#### **LINAGE ADS**

Small ads in DN reach over 65,000 people for just £6 a line, paid for in advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form below. Send it with a cheque for the total to Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

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Classified linage advertisements	classified advertisement (not Personal ad
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semi-display linage advert. Cost: £6 per line plus £10. Tick box below

Linage styles

#### EXAMPLE OF

box linage advert. Cost: £6 per line plus £20. Tick box below.

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$\bigcirc$	Semi-display linage adve

Box linage advert

Choose an advert style from far right. Send this coupon with your name, address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to

Disability Now to: 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. Sorry no refunds. DN is a non-profit making newspaper.

#### DN ON THE WEB

www.disabilitynow.org.uk

#### Holidays

#### **ALGARVE - PORTUGAL**

with hand controls, adapted vans and plenty to see and do.
Contact: David Player
Tel: 00 351 289 393636
Fax: 00 351 289 397448 E-mail: dave@player.pt



www.player.pt

#### Blagdon Farm Country Holidays Devon/Cornwall border

Devon/Cornwall border
Superb, south-facing, wheelchair accessible
luxury bungalows overlooking lake and set
within 38 acres of glorious countryside. Many
on-site facilities including indoor heated pool.
Take-away meals delivered and equipment loan
available. Tourist Board Highly Commended.
For colour brochure please contact:
Pauline and Tony Blight, Blagdon Farm,
Ashwater, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5DF.
Phone: 01409 211509. Fax 01409 211510.

#### PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL "Holiday Care Award Winners"

Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair use and their families. Rural setting with superb

views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.

Please ring or write for colour brochure.

R&N Hall, Penrose Burden,

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Sleeps 4, fabulous views, flawless luxury. TV, linen, power all included. Tel: 01267 237261 E-mail: antony.griew@virgin.net **Accessibility Grade 1** 



#### Norfolk, Nar Valley **Holiday Cottages**

self-catering, all wheelchair accessible, 1 with wheel-in shower room, 2 with airbaths. Mostly en-suite. On working farm - peaceful location central for beaches and tourist attractions. Indoor heated swimming pool.

More details and prices, contact: Rosemary on 01760 338797.

#### **JERSEY**

#### LA ROCCO SELF-CATERING APARTMENTS

Offering panoramic views over St Ouens Bay. New apartments with disabled facilities accommodating 2-8 persons. For free brochure:

tel: 01534 743378, fax: 01534 746844, e-mail: larocco@localdial.com website: http://jerseyisland.com/stbrelade/larocce

#### **ODDICOMBE HALL HOTEL**

Provides an excellent holiday for the disabled person and their family. We have full disabled facilities and are able to cater for organised parties. All wheelchair accessible rooms open on to a private garden with conservatory and have breathtaking sea views. Private car park with unloading at entrance to the hotel. Open all year. Why not escape and relax at delightful Babbacombe, Torquay? Category 2.

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# GRANGE COURT HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Park with "good" status, Goodrington Sands, Devon. Excellent site facilities within short walk, with indoor/ outdoor pools, restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, 2 bedroom, fully wheelchair accessible mobile home. Sleeps 4-6, well appointed. Free club membership. (Purchased with funds from the National Lottery).

from the National Lottery) MILDENREATH HOLIDAY VILLAGE:

Excellent seaside site with good facilities, just outside Looe in Cornwall. Restaurant clubhouse, indoor pool. Fully equipped and wheelchair accessible 2 bedroom chalet accommodation. Sleeps 6 – well furnished and comfortable. Free club

Details: Mr P Cash, tel: (01425) 672055 Bournemouth Spina Bifida Association. Registered Charity No. 261914.

membership.

Brittany Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C. Hodgson. Tel (01924) 499220.

Willow Cottage - The Black Isle, 5 mins drive Inverness.

Continues on page 36

#### Recruitment (on pages 35 to 38)

### Disability**NOW**

#### Layout sub - part-time maternity cover £20,337-£22,300 p.a. pro rata (incl. ILW)

Two days a week, approximately 1 October-7 December and 7 January-1 February

A superb sub and layout whizz-kid is required to work part-time on this leading campaigning newspaper. You are likely to be putting together many of the pages on this monthly - everything from fashion shoots to investigations – as well as doing some writing and commissioning.

Maternity cover may lead to permanent job share.

Minimum requirements: Quark Xpress, MS Word and a year's experience. Photoshop skills would be a plus.

For an application form, contact Dan Batten, tel: 020 7619 7323, fax: 020 7619 7331, email: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

Closing date: 13 August 2001. Disability Now is published by Scope in London. Disabled applicants welcome.

#### Courses

#### The University of Reading



#### **Inclusive Environments: Design & Management**

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Modules in this programme are designed for providers, managers or owners of buildings and environments (e.g. architects, engineers, chartered surveyors, transport designers), as well as users and those who assist them (e.g. occupational therapists, mobility and orientation trainers, rehabilitation workers).

#### Forthcoming Module

10th-14th Sept. 2001

Access Management - Duties, Responsibilities and Techniques Essential for access professionals, this Module considers current access audit

techniques and examines their suitability as methods of communicating details of accessibility to construction and other professionals. It also considers the role of an access audit and how to incorporate findings into the total management process of built or transport environments.

#### Accessible Housing

3rd-7th Dec. 2001

This module examines changing ideas in housing design as a result of developments in disability and construction legislation, demographics and family unit patterns. Designing new and adapting existing housing will be included with the focus being on exploring the development of inclusive environments for dwelling users and visitors.

21st-25th Jan. 2002

Planning for Disability and Access Urban and rural environments are often managed and maintained by a complex relationship of responsibilities between Local Authorities and other public service providers. This module provides opportunities for understanding how

urban and rural environments are designed, managed and maintained, and

how to influence such processes in order to bring about universal accessibility. Visit the IGDS website – www.creem.reading.ac.uk TEL: (0118) 9316220 FAX: (0118) 9316735

#### **COURSES**

To advertise your vacancies or courses please contact Richard, tel: 020 7619 7336, or Patrick, tel: 020 7619 7320, or contact them both on fax: 020 7619 7331, minicom: 020 7619 7332. They can go on the web as well!

Email: ie.creem@reading.ac.uk

#### Personal



For disabled and free brochure able-bodied people Established 1987

Tel: 01473 226950 Fax: 01473 254030 E-mail: handidate@btinternet.com

Website: www.handidate.com Freepost, Handidate, The Wellington Centre, 52 Chevallier Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BR A member of ABIA





Mind works for a better life for people who experience mental distress and needs high calibre staff to do so.

#### POLICY OFFICER (LOCUM)

£21,840 pa inc. + excellent benefits

Locum cover approx. one year

**Based Stratford, London** 

Full-time - 35 hours per week

Mind's Policy Department needs to appoint a locum policy officer for approximately one year and the person recruited will work in the Policy and Parliamentary Unit.

The purpose of the job is to research, write and disseminate policy recommendations on a variety of mental health topics for Mind.

The work will be undertaken in conjunction with another policy officer. The postholder is responsible for developing policy recommendations on the basis of consultation - with users of psychiatric services, local Mind groups, black and minority ethnic organisations, professional staff and others - and on the basis of literature searches and research e.g. small-scale surveys. S/he will write policy statements, reports and campaign materials and disseminate policy e.g. by giving talks and providing briefings for parliamentary and media work.

#### Closing Date for completed applications: Friday 3rd August 2001

Interviews expected: Wednesday 22nd August 2001

For an application pack Email Job40@mind.org.uk OR telephone 020 8522 1735 (24-hour ansaphone) quoting your name, address and reference job40. (No CVs please).

Mind aims to be representative of the communities it works with and welcomes applications from people with personal experience of mental health problems, disabled people, people from black and minority ethnic communities, lesbians and gay men.

Mind is an equal opportunities employer

#### **AGENTS REQUIRED DISABILITY, CHEMISTS & SIMILAR OUTLETS**

Established British manufacturer requires agents to cover areas throughout UK for their range of leisure seats and seat-sticks. Being light, attractive and very strong, they are of immense benefit to those who have difficulties with walking or standing for any length of time. From temporary problems weakness after surgery or illness – to ongoing conditions like arthritis, multiple sclerosis, or old age, using our seats greatly improves quality of life.

#### Generous commission, exclusive areas.

Please write to: Mr B Chanin, Linden Leisure, Unit 8, Isbourne Way, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire GL54 5NS. Tel/Fax: 01242 604545

#### EAST HERTS COUNCIL

#### **Environmental Services** Department **Head of Environmental**

£37,032 - £44,949 p.a

Health

East Herts is looking for the right person to:-

- Fulfil the aspiration of members in delivering quality services,
- · Lead a team of committed officers in delivering the full range of the Environmental Health functions,
- Build on the success of the past and seek to constantly improve. · Make significant contributions to the corporate

working of the authority. Applicants should have a degree or equivalent in Environmental Health, be a corporate member of the Institute of Environmental Health Officers and

demonstrate an extensive track record of managing Environmental Health functions. In return for your skill and experience we offer an

attractive salary plus lease car, BUPA, flexible working hours and a 5% loyalty bonus after 3 years.

For further information contact Neal Hodgson, Director of Environmental Services on 01279 655261 or by e-mail neal.hodgson@ehdc.gov.uk. For an application pack contact Dean Debnam on 01279 655261 quoting Ref: EH001.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 10 August 2001.

Recruitment (on pages 35 to 38)

#### 켇WECIL

#### **West of England Centre** for Integrated Living

35 hours per week

- 6% contributory pension
- 30 days leave

For application pack please contact:

Wendy Tyler WECIL LId. Leinster Avenue Bristol BS4 1AR Tali 0117 903 8900 (value and minicom) E-mail: wendy.tyler@ wecil-itd.domon.co.uk

Over the last seven years the Integrated Living Scheme (Advice and Support Service) ILSA has established a national reputation as a model of good practice. ILSA is now one of the largest personal assistance schemes in the country. We currently have over 170 members whose packages of assistance exceed £3.5 million per annum.

ILSA seeks Disabled people as

#### Personal Assistant Employment Advisor (£19,770-£21,078)

Closing date: Friday 24th August 2001

We are looking for a committed and enthusiastic Disabled person to join our rapidly expanding team of Advisors. The post involves providing advice, information and support to individual Disabled people in establishing and running their own personal assistance schemes.

#### **ILSA Finance/Administration Worker** (£15,741-£17,265)

Closing date: Friday 17th August 2001

To join the Finance/Admin team of this innovative and expanding project. You will be expected to work to a high standard on a broad range of tasks including computerised payroll service, word processing, general administration and related advice/support to ILSA members.

These are challenging posts with good career prospects, working in a supportive team of Disabled people.

WECIL particularly encourages applications from under-represented groups (eg Black Disabled people, Disabled Lesbians and Gay Men).

#### For sale

#### PRE-OWNED & DEMONSTRATOR WAV'S FOR SALE

VW Caravelle 2.4, diesel, 1996 N, red. Lowering suspension, tip up forward facing rear seats

Renault Kangoo 1.9, diesel, 1998 S, white. Fuil lowered floor, WAV conversion (new) Ford Courier 1.8, diesel, 1997 R, 18k miles, white. New lowered floor, WAV conversion £10,495 VW Transporter SWB 1.9, turbo diesel, 1995 M, green. 4 passengers, driver and wheelchair

Austin/Rover Montego 2.0, LXi, 1994 M, estate, auto, only 55k miles, very clean. Fitted with £1,750

Fiat Fiorino 1.3, petrol, 1993 L, 2 seats in rear, Universal Mobility WAV

New or ex-demo Renault Kangoo and Citroen Berlingo Multispace WAVs - call for prices and spec' All the above vehicles come with our Comprehensive Used Vehicle Warranty

95 Bonnygate, Cupar, Fife KY15 4LG Tel: (01334) 657722, fax: (01334) 657711, e-mail: sales@gleneaglesconversions.co.uk website: www.gleneaglesconversions.co.uk



#### WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR SALE

2000 W Berlingo Chairman 1.4 Multispace, lowering suspension £11,250 £10.995 1999 V Berlingo 1.8 Multispace, lowering suspension 2001 Y VW 2.5 Versa, turbo diesel, auto, 400 miles **£TBA** 1999 T Fiat Ulysses, turbo diesel, 5 seats plus wheelchair **£TBA £TBA** 

1997 P Renault Trafic LWB, hi-top, day camper with tail-lift 1995 M Nissan Prairie Brotherwood, 1 owner, 70k miles

Nissan Vanette Cargo & Serena plus Renault Trafic models Peugeot Expert & Fiat Scudo

Several older models available for clearance

election of 35 WAVs from £2,750 fully serviced with warranty. Demo and delivery sywhere in UK mainland free. Part exchange and vehicles sought for purchase.

**CLARKE MOBILITY** SNODLAND, KENT

01634 243596 www.gfclarke.co.uk

£10,995

Choice of 8

Choice of 5

#### **DISCLAIMER**

DN is not responsible for claims made in the adverts it prints and readers are advised to check claims with advertisers before relying on them.

#### Holidays

Shaftesbury, Dorset. Award winning holiday cottages. cat 1, 2 and 3. Working family farm in beautiful countryside. "Best views in Dorset," tremendous character, log fires, C-H. old beams. Accessible swimning, some aids and support services available. Colour brochure. Mrs Sue Smart, Hartgrove Farm, Hartgrove, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0JY, tel: 01747 811830 fax: 01747 811066, e-mail: cottages@hartgrovefarm.co.uk

#### **Poole, Dorset**

3-bedroomed chalet in holiday complex with spacious wheelchair access, ramp etc Dates available in Aug, Sept & Oct. Tel: 01525 634129 after 6pm

Powerchairs Mobility Consultants New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelch 3 and 4 Wheel Scooters. All models wanted and for sale.

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#### WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE

Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking fo peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. Book now for 2001 Call or fax Ed Passant on 0208 885 4971 or e-mail: ed.passant@mail.com



Learning Development and Continuing Education Unit

#### Learning Development Officer For Students With Disabilities

Job share (0.5)

Working closely with the Disabilities Co-ordinator and your job-share partner and based in the Learning Development Unit, you will be responsible for delivering, developing and managing practical support services for students with disabilities and/or learning difficulties at the College.

You will be expected to work collaboratively with disability support staff in other London-based institutions and to promote good practice in teaching and learning support for students with disabilities/learning difficulties within the College.

You will have experience in current approaches and issues regarding provision for students with disabilities and/or learning difficulties in UK higher education. You will have a commitment to equal opportunities, excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to communicate effectively with students and senior management. A qualification in providing dyslexia support would

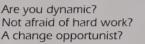
The post is funded from the recent HEFCE initiative to improve provision for students with disabilities in higher education and is until 31st December 2002 in the first instance. It is hoped, however, that the post will be established in the institution after this date.

Salary depending on experience will be in the range £10,808 to £13,674 p.a. inc. of London Allowance.

For further details and an application form please telephone 020 7882 5526 or E-mail: j.sheehan@qmw.ac.uk quoting Job Reference number 01130. Completed application forms, along with a personal statement addressing the job description and person specification, should be returned by 15th August to the LSS Administrator, Learning Support Service, Chemistry Building, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

Working towards equal opportunities

#### **Chief Officer**





If so, we need you to continue the development of our organisation.

You will have the opportunity to work in a go-ahead area where strategic partnerships between the voluntary sector, local authority and health organisations are very strong.

This is a full-time post - 36 hours per week, with a salary from £27k per annum. Applications are particularly welcome from

For details and application form contact: DASH, H.I.L.C., Royal Lane, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3QX, tel: 01895 231677.

Closing date for applications: 14 September 2001. Interview date: 25 September 2001



Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People is a local organisation of disabled people. With an active Executive Committee, large membership and a hard working staff team, the Coalition runs a highly respected Independent Living Scheme (ILS), lobbies Government on disability issues, and represents the interests of disabled people in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to service providers.

#### Chief Executive

Salary £23,451 - £25,473

The Coalition is seeking to recruit a dynamic Chief Executive who has the vision, commitment and skills to successfully steer the organisation through a period of transition and expansion regarding the ILS, policy and training and membership

You will need proven all round management skills, together with knowledge and experience of project and service development, voluntary sector funding, working to deadlines and collaborative working with staff, management committee, users and other service providers. You will also have direct experience of disability discrimination, a commitment to the principles of the social model of disability, and substantial knowledge of the disability sector.

#### Independent Living Scheme Advisor (Re-advertised) Salary £17,823 - £21,078

Required to join the Coalition's successful ILS and empower individual disabled people wishing to use Direct Payments to recruit and manage their own Personal Assistants and gain greater control of their lives. Previous applicants need not reapply.

#### Both posts are open to disabled people only.

For a job application and information pack please contact: Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People, Cowbridge Court, 60 Cowbridge Road West, Ely, Cardiff CF5 5BS. Telephone: 029 2025 5611, Fax: 029 2025 5621, e-mail: info@cvcdp.demon.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 12noon, Wednesday 29 August 2001.

#### Recruitment (on pages 35 to 38)

#### Thames Gateway NHS Trust

Ref: 4000/004/0042

**Disability Advisor** 

Salary: c £25,000

3 year contract

This post has been created by a partnership approach between local health service providers committed to meeting the requirements of the disability legislation, equality of access to services and employment.

The role will require you to provide advice to senior managers, personnel staff and clinicians on matters related to Parts II and III of the Disability Discrimination Act. You will drive forward the Implementation Plans within Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust, Medway and Swale Primary Care Groups and Thames Gateway NHS Trust.

Experienced in the disability field, you will need to have a sound knowledge of the Act, and its impact on the provision of local health services, proven project management experience and excellent communication skills.

In return we can offer you excellent development opportunities and an attractive employment package.

We welcome applications from disabled people and guarantee an interview to anyone meeting the minimum criteria for the post.

To discuss the post informally, please contact Kaye Lyons on 01634 382740.

For an information pack and an application form, please contact Personnel and Development, Trust Headquarters, 7-8 Ambley Green, Bailey Drive, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0NJ. Telephone: 01634 382738 (Voicemail). Information can also be made available in large type,

AROUT ST

braille or on spoken word cassette.
Closing date: 9th September 2001
Interviews week commencing: 24th September 2001

Working towards Equal Opportunities

### 1 INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

#### TRUSTEES AND TREASURER WANTED

Action on Disability and Development works in 12 countries of Africa and Asia supporting disabled people's organisations in their campaign for their rights and full inclusion in society.

Trustees meet twice yearly in ADD's accessible offices in Somerset and twice by telephone conference. An open selection process for trustee recruitment is adopted. Understanding of disability as a human rights issue is essential.

Pack available on request from e-mail: christine.maynard@add.org.uk, website: www.add.org.uk phone: 01373 473064



### DEADLINES

September classified: Booking deadline:17 August Copy deadline: 21 August

#### Appointment of members to the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

The Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions is seeking nominations for membership to the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC). Applications for the post of Chairman are also invited.



in association with

#### The Committee

DPTAC was set up under the Transport Act 1985 to advise the Government on the transport and mobility needs of disabled people. The Committee also has a non-statutory role in advising Government on improving access to the built environment for disabled people.

The Committee meets four times a year. In addition it is supported by a series of working groups and successful applicants should expect to devote a minimum of 10–12 days a year to attending meetings. The precise commitment will depend on the preference of individual members to participate in working groups. Members are also expected to contribute to the work of DPTAC by correspondence. The Chairman's role is likely to be more time consuming and the successful applicant could expect to spend up to 5 days a month on Committee work.

#### Key skills

Those appointed to the Committee will be people with relevant experience in transport and disability issues gained either as a professional working in those fields, or as a transport consumer. Members will be expected to apply that experience and to take a broad national perspective across the full range of transport issues affecting disabled people. They will also be experienced in Committee work at local, regional or national level.

#### Appointment

At least half of the Committee's twenty members must be disabled people. In making appointments the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions will also want to ensure that the membership represents the widest range of transport and disability interests and that it strikes a balance in terms of gender and ethnicity. All appointments are made on a personal basis; members do not represent the interests of particular organisations.

Members are not paid for their work on the Committee, but travel, subsistence and other reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. The appointment is for 3 years from 1 January 2002.

Further information, including details on how to apply, can be obtained from the DTLR's Mobility and Inclusion Unit at 1/18, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR; or by telephone on 020 7944 3277; or email miu@dtlr.gov.uk. Details are also available on the web at www.mobility-unit.dtlr.gov.uk or www.dptac.gov.uk

Final applications must be submitted by close on Friday 7 September 2001.

#### Exhibitions



**Wariety Club** 

#### **BOURNEMOUTH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

(Company No. 4024662 - Charity No. 1081381)

An exciting and challenging opportunity exists for a

#### **PROJECT WORKER**

(20 hours per week: £7,189pa - pay award pending)

The Project Worker will develop the Disability Consultation Project, focusing on physical disability and sensory loss, to seek service users' views on local service provision. Experience of disability issues is essential, combined with a positive approach to service users, groups and service providers.

Application forms (no CVs) are available from Bournemouth CVS, tel: 01202 466130.

Closing date for applications: 24 August 2001 Interviews: early September

#### **BOURNEMOUTH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

#### Services

#### **Payday Services Limited**

Payday Services provides payroll services for voluntary and non-profit making organisations, home carers, charities (no VAT) and SMEs.

We do everything necessary for you to pay your employees correctly.

The Studio, Benefield Road, Brigstock NN14 3ES Tel: 01536 373111 Fax: 01536 373123 Web: www.paydayservices.co.uk

Sales and services to all makes of wheelchair taillifts and elevators, Loler 98 servicing, repairs all on site, mobile engineers, nationwide coverage, 24 hours breakdown service, main dealer for Ricon UK and Concorde elevators.

Tel: 0161 281 3264

#### DN ON THE WEB

www.disabilitynow.org.uk editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

#### Recruitment (on pages 35 to 38)

# Look at the difference

If you're looking for an employer that really values you as an individual, congratulations you've found one. At Barking and Dagenham, we're positive about diversity, because we know our mixture of cultures, ages, levels of ability and gender actually strengthens our team. And by reflecting the makeup of our community, we'll be better able to provide sensitive, relevant and accessible services

This year we won three Charter Marks and received commendations at the Local Government Chronicle Awards. Our Social Services have improved dramatically and we are developing innovative partnerships with the local Health Authority. Our schools are amongst the fastest improving in the Country. We are at the heart of the Thames Gateway regeneration project. These achievements are just the beginning, as we continue to strive for excellence, working with our community and strategic partners.

We're regularly recruiting across the board. To find out more about us and the roles we have on offer, visit us at www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk Opportunities to join us are also advertised in local, national or trade press, as well as at local job centres.





DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LIFELONG LEARNING YOUTH PARTICIPATION PROJECT

#### Youth Participation Worker

£9,267 - £9,912 Fixed term 2 year contract Post reference: NH117

The Youth Participation Project is a new project initiated by Bradford Youth Service. We are looking to appoint 10 young workers who will work across the District. The focus of the project is to encourage participation of 13 – 19 year olds around issues that affect their lives.

We are interested in applications from people who see themselves as peer educators with 13 - 19 year olds and have experience of working with this age group.

We are actively encouraging applications from young African Caribbean, disabled, lesbian and gay people as these communities are under represented in the Service.

For further information contact Norrina Rashid (01274) 752135

Application forms and further details for the above posts can be obtained from the Department of Community Development and lifelong Learning, Personnel Section, 1st Floor, Jacobs Well, Bradford BD1 5RW. Telephone 01274 752605 E-mail: christine.willis@Bradford.gov.uk

#### **CLOSING DATE 20th AUGUST 2001**

Unless otherwise stated, all full-time posts are available for job sharing, (partner not necessary). As an Equal Opportunities Employer, Bradford seeks a workforce which reflects the community we serve. We welcome applications from those groups under-represented among our staff.

A copy of this advertisement is available in Braille, Large Print and on Audio Tape by contacting Maureen Elstub on 01274 752476 or minicom (Richard Mountain) 01274 753564

www.bradford.gov.uk

#### EQUAL RIGHTS AT WORK

#### Youth Participation Project

Youth Participation Worker

£9.267 - £9.912 Fixed term 2-year contract

The Youth Participation Project is a new project initiated by Bradford Youth Service. We are looking to appoint 10 young workers who will work across the District. The focus of the project is to encourage participation of 13 to 19-year-olds around issues that affect their lives.

We are interested in applications from people who see themselves as peer educators with 13 to 19-year-olds and have experience of working with this age group. We are actively encouraging applications from young African Caribbean, disabled, lesbian and gay people as these communities are under-represented in the Service.

For further information contact Norrina Rashid 01274 752135.

Application forms and further details for the above posts can be obtained from the Department of Community Development and Lifelong Learning, Personnel Section, 1st Floor, Jacobs Well, Bradford BD1 5RW, telephone: 01274 752605, e-mail: christine.willis@bradford.gov.uk

Closing date: 20 August 2001

From April 2001, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the planning and funding of all post 16 education and training (except for university provision) in England. The LSC consists of a national office based in Coventry and 47 local offices. It has an annual budget of over £5 billion and will contract with a range of organisations including FE colleges, private training providers, LEAs and employers.

#### LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL

#### Students with Learning Difficulties – Appeals Panels

The Learning and Skills Council (the Council) invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced individuals who are prepared to Chair meetings of panels hearing appeals by students with learning difficulties against decisions by the Council not to fund placements at specialist colleges.

Applicants do not need to have previous experience in the field of learning difficulties, but will need to demonstrate the ability to conduct an appeal panel with sensitivity. The panel is an advisory panel and will forward its advice to the Chief Executive of the Council.

It is intended that there should be three panels, covering the North, Midlands and South of England. The panels will comprise an independent Chair, who will be eligible to receive payment of £600 in respect of each meeting of the panel, together with expenses. Individual panels will have two other members drawn from local Learning and Skills Councils in the area, who will not receive any payment other than expenses. The student and/or their representatives attend and address the panel. Meetings of the panel would be held at a convenient location in the area covered by the panel and would last for about two hours. It would be expected that there might be four meetings annually, normally in the period July - October. Panel Members would receive background information on the particular case about one week before the meeting, and might expect to spend a half-day reading that information.

For further information, please contact Selvy Kasparis, Learning and Skills Council, Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry CV1 2WT. Telephone 024 7649 3638 or email selvy.kasparis@lsc.gov.uk

Applications are invited by letter, which should include a curriculum vitae and the contact details of one person who would be willing to offer a reference. All applications should be returned to Selvy Kasparis by Friday 3rd August 2001.

Learning+Skills Council

#### www.**ssp Tameside**.gov.uk



#### SERVICE USER INVOLVEMENT WORKER

36 hours per week

Permanent post

Grade: SO1 - £19,770 - £21,078

We are looking for an enthusiastic and energetic person to help deaf and disabled people to get involved in the planning, monitoring and development

of Health and Social Services in Tameside.

The work includes supporting deaf and disabled people to give their views and ideas to managers who provide Health and Social Care. It also includes work with managers and providers of services, to help them understand how

work with managers and providers of services, to help them understand now to consult with deaf and disabled people.

You will need experience of developing community groups and also experience of providing training. You will need to communicate well with deaf and disabled people and with professional workers and managers. Fluency in British Sign Language is essential. Candidates should have an understanding of disability rights and some knowledge of Social and Health Services.

Further information about this post is available on BSL video.

BSL video applications are welcome.

For application forms and further information contact: The Recruitment Bureau, Tameside MBC, Room 1.65, Council Offices, Wellington Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside OL6 6DL. Tel: 0161 342 2117 (24 hour answering service). Minicom: 0161 342 3351, or alternatively e-mail: tmbcjobs@mail.tameside.gov.uk
Please quote Reference No: SS2351.
Closing date for applications: 24th August 2001.

Tameside is an equal opportunity employer. It is Council policy that all new employees serve a six month probationary period.









#### **CONDITIONS**

All adverts must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Telephone numbers and addresses will not be placed in personal adverts, for confidentiality. Instead, Box Numbers will be provided. Likewise, telephone numbers and addresses will not be given out over the telephone if requested.

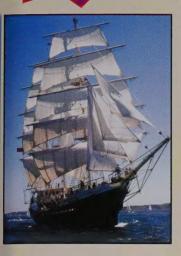
Box Numbers can be requested for non-personal adverts. However. may limit the response to it. If you want to advertise documents, goods or services contact Richard Gresham (tel: 020 7619 7336) or Patrick Durham-Matthews (tel: 020 7619 7320), fax: 020 7619 7331.

Linage adverts can only be used by private individuals. All commercial enquiries must be addressed to Richard Gresham.

DN cannot except responsibility for loss or damage of adverts or letters during forwarding. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check the content of their advert, and to ensure any abbreviations cannot be misunderstood.

# Win!

# Life on the ocean wave



Tenacious is one of only two tall ships which are designed to accommodate both physically disabled and non-disabled crew members. The ship is owned by the Jubilee Sailing Trust (JST) and this UK charity is offering two DN readers a unique opportunity to join their crew for a 10-day working holiday, worth £690.

Tenacious will set sail from Liverpool on 8 October and will take in the mountainous coastline of Ireland, before docking in Weymouth on 17 October.

Some of the ship's features include:

- Flat, wide decks, which facilitate access for wheelchair users;
- Wide aisles below deck and low level fittings;
- Speaking compass with digital readout screen;
- Stair lifts;
- Power assisted hydraulic steering.

Although previous sea-going experience is not necessary, the JST emphasises that there are no passengers on board and that everyone is expected to work as part of a team, to the best of his or her ability. In addition to a permanent crew of 10 professional crew members, our lucky winners will join a team of up to 40 people, half of whom have physical disabilities. This promises to be a fantastic experience for two outgoing and team-spirited individuals. So, if you fit the bill, don't forget to fill in the coupon (top right) and send it to our freepost address as shown. For those of you who don't

win, berths are still available on-board Tenacious and the Lord Nelson for the UK season, and brochures can be obtained from the voyage department at the JST, tel: 02380 449138 or visit www.jst.org.uk to book online.

Winners are responsible for their own travel expenses to and from the ship.

Winners must provide some form of travel insurance, which can be arranged through the JST at a cost of £14.50.

The JST reserves the right to change the date of the voyage.



TO ENTER

Tick your chosen competition circle(s) below, add your details, and send FOR FREE to Disability Now, Freepost WD4323, London N7 9BR, or you can fax it on 020 7619 7331, or e-mail the details to

editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

Jubilee Sailing Trust

BBC radio cassettes



.. (=

TERMS & CONDITIONS

• Closing date for offers: 31.8.2000 • Entrants must be over 18 • No proof of purchase required • UK entrants only • No cash alternatives • Winners

notified by post • Editor's decision is final • Special offers not open to DN staff or associates • Winners may be announced in DN • This is a joint partnership with The Jubilee Sailing Trust and the BBC Worldwide, and we may use your name and address for further marketing purposes. Please tick the box if you do not wish your name and address to be included

### **DN** next month



All the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 1 September.

"BIG BEN", THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND

BACK TO SCHOOL

Parents and young people comment on access, availability and choice in education, and DN visits a new school that boasts total access.

DN SURVEY

How are Government departments doing when it comes to employing disabled people?

JUST THE JOB

How to become a journalist.

OUT AND ABOUT (3)

Your last chance to find inspiration for summer trips.

#### **NEWSAGENT ORDER FORM**

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Please reserve me a regular copy of Disability Now until further notice

Please deliver a copy of *Disability Now* to my home address



Name: ...... Address: ...

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Signature: ....

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# A word in your ear

In the mood for some midsummer murders? If so, don't miss this chance to win one of six spooky, spoken word classics, brought to you as part of a new BBC Worldwide audio collection.

If you love suspense, why not select from the following titles and have one of the twentieth century's best loved who-dunits at your fingertips:

• The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle: Clive Merrison and Michael Williams star in this fully dramatised cannon of Conan Doyle's short story.

• ABC Murders/After the Funeral by Agatha Christie: Two BBC Radio 4 full-cast dramatisations of Christie's classic crime stories, starring John Moffatt as the great Belgian detective.



Clouds of Witness

• The Big Sleep and the High Window by Raymond Chandler: Ed Bishop is Phillip Marlowe in these powerful BBC Radio 4 dramatisations.

• Clouds of Witness by Dorothy L Sayers: A web of lies and deceit is slowly revealed in this Sayers' classic novel, starring Ian Carmichael as Lord Peter Wimsey.

• The Bridesmaid/Going Wrong by Ruth Rendell: Jamie Glover and Rachel Lewis star in these dramatisations of the crime



RAYMOND CHANDLER
The Big Sleep & The High Window

queen's murder mysteries.

• The Third Man/The
Fallen Idol: Two classics with

Ed Bishop and Ian Hendry.



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Fully accessible hotel
Delightful studio suites
Wheel-in showers
1 outdoor pool
1 indoor pool with overhead hoist

Close to bars restaurant and beach
Accessible airport transfers & excursions
Hoists, shower chairs, height adjustable
beds available on request
We arrange everything inc. flights.

Tel. 08702 416 127

www.travelability.co.uk

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At Lewis Reed, we don't simply build quality wheelchair accessible vehicles, we tailor them to your most specific needs. With easy access features. Superb visibility. Superior comfort. And exceptional levels of safety.

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The widest choice of quality marques	Flexible ownership schemes
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Independently safety tested	Lifetime customer service - while you own the vehicle
Superb conversions by fully trained experts	Never more than a phone call away
"No obligation" test drives from your	Quality used conversions always in stock

"I wanted a conversion by a firm who really understand disabled needs... ...nothing else would do"









Call for your free brochure today on:

0151 650 2334 Lairdside Technology Park, Birkenhead, CH41 9HS LEWIS REED

because nothing else will do